INCORPORATING 1980 Top Soccer FRANCIS John Deehan of W.B.A., against former Aston Villa team-mate Brendan Ormsby. 3rd part of our VALLCHART **LUTON TOWN** Team group in colour SHOOT - the magazine SHOOT - the magazine

OW the might have fallen. Or maybe they are just sleeping. Leeds United and Everton are giants lost in a wilderness of mediocrity. Jimmy Adamson and Gordon Lee are doing all they can to lead them out.

Drifting in the bottom half of the First Division. Out of Europe, both teams bowed out to frail opposition. Leeds to the part-timers Craiova, of Rumania, and Everton to Feyenoord, who are a shadow of the great side that won the

The League Cup could have offered salvation. But Everton went out at Grimsby. Leeds on an aggregate of 8-1 to Arsenal in the

Second Round.

So what has gone wrong? A fixture against either side in the early 1970's would hardly have been something to relish. Today, although they are not easy prey, a game against Leeds or Everton, clubs that have won many major honours in the past is not something to unduly worry about.

Terry Darracott, who spent 13 years at Goodison Park before moving to Wrexham via Tulsa Roughnecks, believes the current slump is temporary.

"Everton and Leeds are going through a period of change," "Football moves in cycles. Manchester United experienced exactly the same thing, and even spent a season in the Second Division rebuilding.

Il soccer's fallen

"These two clubs, like Manchester United, are too big to lie dormant for long. It will not happen overnight, but they will come

Unfortunately for manager Gordon Lee his first two full seasons at Everton failed to produce a trophy, although he came within a whisker. But that is not good enough when a club like Liverpool are less than a mile away

Lee succeeded Billy Bingham mid-way through the 1976-77 season at a time when Everton were 18th in the First Division.

He set about weeding his new garden, buying and selling. He took Everton to Wembley for the

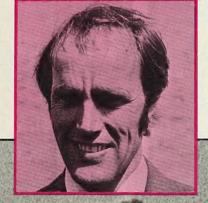
finally lost to Aston Villa in a second replay at Old Trafford. They lost in the Semi-Finals of the F.A. Cup to Liverpool, 3-0 in a replay at Maine Road, and finished ninth in Division One.

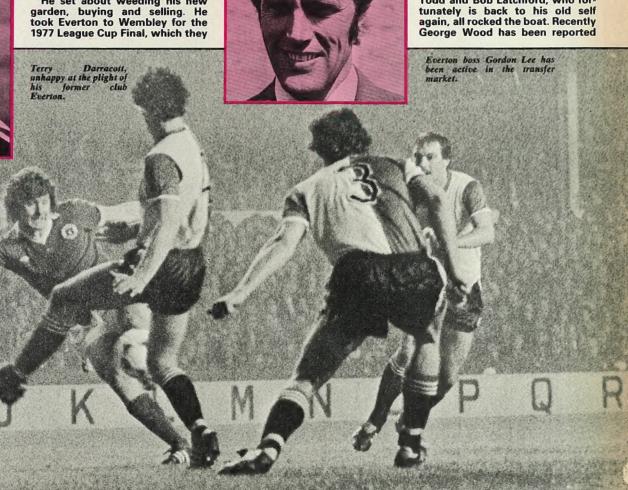
Lee had laid the foundations.

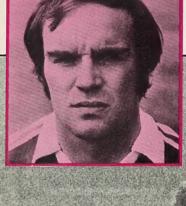
The following season they looked a good bet for the Championship until the turn of the year. An 18-game unbeaten run abruptly ended at Goodison Park on Boxing Day when Manchester United were 6-2 victors. Everton, who were never outside the top six from September, finished third. It was fourth last season. And what about this season?

"Everton have so far played under the handicap of their preseason squabbles," says Dar-

racott.
"Mike Pejic, Dave Thomas, Colin Todd and Bob Latchford, who for-tunately is back to his old self again, all rocked the boat. Recently







Brian Kidd (left) fires in a shot against Feyenoord in the U.E.F.A. Cup this season, but

as wanting to move if a new con-

tract is not forthcoming.
"Before they even kick a ball on a Saturday they have got to put the week's squabbling behind them. I find that very sad.

"I believe they have too many players at the club who do not have the interests of Everton at heart. I hear so much talk these days about 'securing my future' from professional footballers.

Well let me tell you that money isn't everything. I spent the summer in the States earning very good money. But I was so pleased to play football in this country

again.
"I left behind a lucrative threeyear contract. But I found satisfaction again.



Leeds boss Jimmy Adamson has been under pressure from the fans.

sons at Goodison before joining Wolves. Todd had exactly a year and moved to Birmingham City.

Leeds United have not had silverware in their trophy cabinet since they last won the League Championship in 1974 when Don Revie quit the club.

Jimmy Armfield took them to the European Cup Final the follow-ing year when they lost 2-0 to Bayern Munich in Paris.

Since then they have finished fifth, tenth, just below Everton in 1976-77, ninth and fifth again last season

A series of Semi-Final appearances in both the League and F.A. Cups have brought no future joy.

And that for a club that boasts two League Championship successes, and a succession of near mis

ses in the early '70's. Leeds won the F.A. Cup in 1972. the Fairs Cup, the U.E.F.A. Cup, that European Cup Final and a Cup-Winners' Cup Final that they lost in 1973 have all been experienced.

"Leeds have never recovered from losing the great side that won those trophies, or nearly won them in many cases," says Billy Bremner, who was Don Revie's

fiery general in those heady days. "Allan Clarke, Norman Hunter, Johnny Giles, and Paul Reaney. Players of that calibre all moved on about the same time. Only Paul Madeley and David Harvey are left.

"Losing Terry Yorath was also a bitter blow. He has since proved what a great inspiration he is." Yorath left Elland Road to join Coventry City and then Tot-Coventry City and then Tot-tenham. He has also gone on to win his 50th cap for Wales.

'Possibility'

"Leeds could have built around Terry," says Bremner, who is now moulding Doncaster Rovers into an interesting promotion possibility in the Fourth Division.

"They are too great to wait for success. In my opinion they must buy. That is easier said than done, of course.

But what I do know is that they will not be amongst the also-rans for long. Their supporters are unhappy at present, and they have a right to voice their opinions. But they must be patient.

Bremner and Darracott are right. Nothing can be resolved in 24 hours. Football moves in cycles. Everyone, it seems, has their turn at the top. Except Liverpool, they stay there! And that does not help Everton or Leeds.



don Lee. He is a good manager and it's sad to see him and Everton in their current position. Maybe he hasn't bought too wisely in the past, and I can't understand that. He is so thorough that I could never see him making a mistake. "But let me offer Dave Thomas and Colin Todd as examples of players whose hearts were not at Everton.

"How can you move from Queens Park Rangers and Derby County as they did and then be off again in such a short space of time?" Thomas had two full sea-







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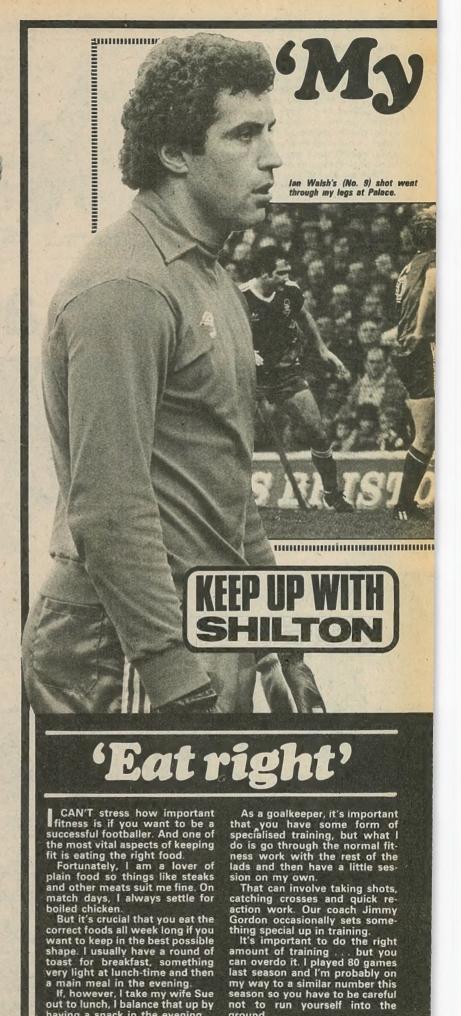


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not to run yourself into the

ground.

having a snack in the evening.

mistake

GOALKEEPERS are paid not to make mistakes but when you do slip up, people are not back-ward in telling you about it.

But, at times, the whole business gets blown out of all proportion — as it did with me before

As you know we have had a bad time at Forest but it appeared that people were forever looking for reasons for the slide — and a few fingers were pointed in my direction.

It really came to a head for me when we lost 4-1 at Derby and I

was blamed for the first two goals. Everyone in the ground seemed to think the first goal was just a case think the first goal was just a case of me dropping a cross at the feet of Gerry Daly, who scored. But of Gerry Daly, who scored. But what really happened was that Larry Lloyd and I collided in one of those incidents that occurs once every two or three seasons and the

ball was knocked out of my hand.

Then I was blamed for the second goal when a cross came in from the right. I knew I couldn't hold it, or knock it over the bar, so I hold it, or knock it over the bar, so I just attempted to push it beyond the far post, but it was just our luck that John Duncan was stand-

ing there to head in.
That's the sort of thing that happens when you are having a bad time and there is another, more recent, example when a shot went through Frank Gray's legs and then mine during the game at

Crystal Palace.
There are times, of course, when you end up with egg on your face ... and deserve it.

I once came out of my area in a match for Stoke against Newcastle to clear a through ball. But it bounced off Alan Gowling and he planted it into the net to score a

vital last-minute goal, while I sat it out on my backside. Then in our European Cup Semi-Final with Cologne last season, their substitute came on and beat me with a shot that skidded under

my body in the mud.

We had been training on the pitch in the build-up to the match and all the balls coming through to me had been bouncing up but this one decided to hit the deck and shoot in.



Dur new dynamic duo'

WE'VE been fortunate at Forest in the last couple of seasons to have exciting and free-scoring twin spearheads . . . and we've another partnership in the making.

It's early days yet for the Garry Birtles-Trevor Francis duo but I'm certain that given time to develop and reach an understanding they will be a formidable proposition for any defence.

When I first came to Forest we had Peter Withe and Tony Wood-cock firing away together. They did so much to help the club into the First Division and once there just carried on scoring goals and creating problems.

Blossomed

Peter's departure to Newcastle eventually led to Garry getting his chance and his partnership with Tony blossomed until Tony decided he wanted to try his luck in German football with Cologne.

But between them Garry and

Trevor have the ability to be quite something. It's already been hinted that Garry might get a chance with the full England side and with Trevor now established as an international they could be in the early stages of forging a part-nership for both Forest and England.
Although he has achieved so

much it's got to be remembered that Garry is fairly new to the game. But already he's showed he

can score goals in any company.
He's a great competitor, never stops working and if at times he appears to look a little clumsy, we know he's always capable of producing that spark of brilliance that marks him down as a naturally gifted player.

Of the two, Garry will have more responsibility for being a target man and Trevor will be looking to capitalise on those knock downs and flick-ons that are so important. Trevor's greatest asset is, of course, his blistering pace . . . give him a chance to get away and there is very little hope of catching

Pace is one feature of the game that defenders fear and I'm sure that will emerge as a major reason why the Birtles-Francis combination will prove so deadly.

All great striking partnerships — like Kevin Keegan and John Toshack — have a quality that teams cannot account for. Like Coventry City's Mick Ferguson and lan Wallace, the Liverpool pair relied on the aerial ability of one and the nippiness of the other.

Birtles and Francis might vary a little from that but at Forest we're banking on them being just as effective.



stayin; at Forest

LIKE most players I've thought about the possibility of moving out of England to experience playing on the Continent.

But why should I? I've been very happy at Forest, they have looked after me financially and, perhaps above all, I enjoy playing and living in England.

That's not to say, of course, that one day I might not have a fresh look at the situation and try my luck in America or somewhere like that.

But I have a contract with Forest that runs until I am 33 and hopefully by then I will have won more club honours and perhaps something with

England, too.

Not that I blame those players like my former Forest teammate Tony Woodcock for experiencing what it is all about in Garmany Football is a short in Germany. Football is a short life and it's important to try and secure your financial future during the time that you are at

Your fortunes change so quickly in football. Just look at what happened to us at Forest this season. For two years we hardly knew what it was like to lose a game and all of a sudden we don't know what it's like to win one! An individual's career can change in the same drama-

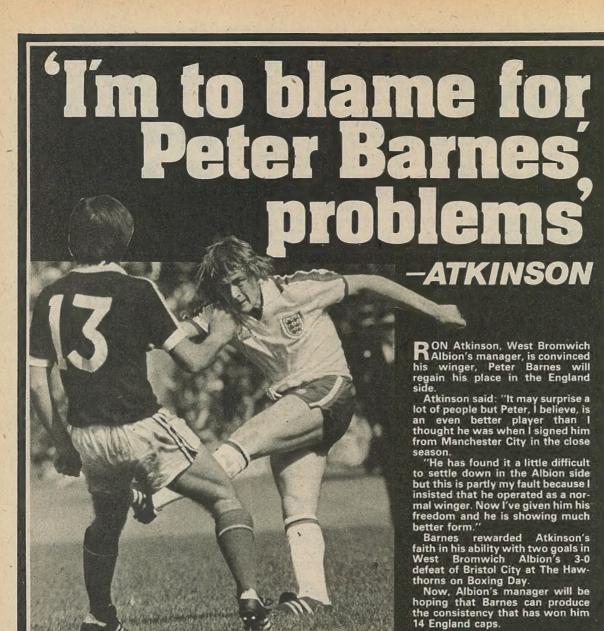
tic way.

We are always going to lose top players abroad because of the financial aspects so it's good that we have opened our doors to foreign players.

It's good for the game, and in the shape of Osvaldo Ardiles the foreigners had no better pioneer. It was obvious that doubts were going to be expressed about the new-comers but Ardiles' first season at Tottenham was so good it stopped the rumours almost

before they began.

Birmingham City had an unfortunate experience with Tarantini, of course, but the vast majority of "imports" want to settle into our play because they believe it has something to offer them. And they are right!



MALCOLM Allison shocked Walsall when he offered the Fourth Division club £400,000 for striker Don Penn.
Allison himself was surprised when Walsall rejected the offer because they reckon that Penn is more valuable to them at the present time in their bid to get out of the Reporth Division.

Fourth Division.

Ironically, Penn, who is Walsall's leading goalscorer this season, was only drafted into the side by player-manager Alan Buckley because of a shortage of players at Fellows Park last August.

Since then Penn has made tremendous progress. His big assets are his ability to come in on the blind side of opponents and his knack of outjumping defenders near goal.

Liverpool strikers best - PAISLEY

LIVERPOOL'S manager is adamant — the Dalglish-Johnson strike combi-nation for the First Division Champions is better than Wolves' highly rated goal-scoring duo of John Richards and Andy

Gray.

"The partnership of Kenny Dalglish and David Johnson has developed very well," says Bob. "People talk about the Wolves pair of Andy Gray and John

"Our pair have more variety, better blend, better all round, I believe." Norwich would be the last to argue

with Bob's theory after Johnson (two goals) and Dalglish (one) had sliced open their defence at Carrow Road to dismiss them from the Quarter-Finals of the League Cup.



BELGIAN striker Eddy Voordeckers, of Standard Liege, had to miss his side's European Championship match against Scotland at Hampden recently . . . because of suspected heart trouble! Voordeckers, 19, who scored Belgium's second goal in their 2-0 win over Scotland in Brussels, has now been told totake a complete rest from football.

SOUTHAMPTON goalkeeper Peter Wells was praised after he had spoiled the 100 per cent penalty record of Middlesbrough forward David Armstrong. The player who paid the tribute? David Armstrong. "When I took a second penalty against him, it was a battle of wits. Wells guessed right and brought off a good save." brought off a good save."

His save was crucial. Saints won 1-0 to

shatter Boro's unbeaten home record.

Attack! Attack! That's English football

"ENGLISH football is more attack minded than any other nation in Europe." The words of Don Howe, Arsenal's chief coach and one of the most respected tacticians in the

game.
Howe's comments are delivered at a time when England are emerging from one of the most defensive eras in the history of the

game.
"We are prepared to throw more people forward and to chance losing possession more times going forward than other European

Don Howe should know, for Arsenal's Frank Stapleton is one of the most effective strikers in the game — thanks, in part, to the former England player's coaching.

LEADING Northern Ireland legislator Harry Cavan fulfils a unique treble-role in British football, at club, national and inter-

British football, at club, national and international level.
In addition to these more prestigious posts of F.I.F.A. vice-president and long-serving president of the century-old Irish F.A., the versatile, perennial Mr. Cavan is also secretary of his local Irish League outfit Ards.

BLUNT talking from Colin Addison, Derby County's manager: "I am tired of making promises which the players do not respond to. From now on it has to be a case of actions speak louder than words.

"The cruel fact is that we have some players in our first team squad who cannot match the requirements set by the First Division. Or, if they can, they aren't showing it."

PLANS have been unveiled for the 1980 Drybrough Cup competition, which provides a £43,000 cash share-out for the Scottish Football League. Eight teams will take part based on goals scored during the current 1979-80 League programme. Teams will be chosen from all three Divisions, the four top goalscoring teams from the Premier Division, two top goalscoring teams from the First Division, and the two top scorers from the Second Division. The club winning the Cup will receive a total of £10,000 prize-money and the runner-up £8,000.

Drybrough's marketing director lake Malor wild. (The Country League 1971)

Drybrough's marketing director lain Nelson said: "The Cup is all about goalscoring. Our competition seeks to encourage and reward the teams that score goals. This means encouraging the positive, attacking footbell that most

score goals. This means encouraging the spectators want to see."

Celtic, Morton and Aberdeen are strong contenders from the Premier for a place in the competition. Dundee are also playing well and could make it if they maintain their form.

Likely participants from Division One are Airdrie, Ayr United, Hearts and Dumbarton, and from Division Two Falkirk, Montrose and Brechin City.

AVID O'Leary can find room only for two Northern Ireland players in his All-Ireland selection put together when he was doodling with notepad and pencil. This was Dave's XI: Jennings; Devine, Lawrenson, O'Leary (P or D), Holmes; McIlroy, Grealish, Brady; Givens, Stapleton, Heighway.

Modesty wouldn't allow him to pick himself so he got round the problem by naming either himself or brother Pierce at the back. Both of Dave's Arsenal team-mates, Pat Rice and Sammy Nelson, were left out.

The Soccer Writers' Association of Ireland have presented special commemorative jerseys to the 'Team of the Year' they chose.

The journalists selection was: Smyth (Bohemians); Gregg (Bohemians), McCormack (Bohemians), Dunning (Dundalk), Nodwell (Cork United), Flanagan (Dundalk), Giles (Shamrock Rovers), McCarthy (Waterford), Minnock (Fin Harps), Muckian (Dundalk), Lane (Cork United). Subs: Finucane (Waterford) and O'Connor (Bohemians).

Turlough O'Connor is now manager of Athlone Town, and his former 'keeper, Mick Smyth, has joined him at St. Mel's Park.

'Hooligan' **Posts** "WOULD the goalpost kindly not run on to the terraces at the end of the game . . . " It happened at the end of the Aston Villa-Liverpool game. The posts were uprooted so that the Villa groundstaff could operate their revolutionary new roller which flattens the pitch after every home game at Villa Park. TO WESTA

MacRAE'S WA

SEVERAL Scottish clubs are showing interest in Keith MacRae, the Manchester City reserve goalkeeper being kept out of the first team by Joe Corrigan's consistency. Russian side Dinamo Tbilisi, who knocked out Liverpool from the European Cup this season, want to play Scottish Champions Celtic at Parkhead. Morton's Under-21 attacker John McNeil is wanted by Ipswich Town, but the Portman Road side will have to wait until he gets out of plaster after a recent injury. Partick Thistle midfielder lan Gibson, who captained the team last season, has asked for a transfer. Fulham's former Ranger, Gordon Royd is interesting Avr Boyd, is interesting Ayr

HIBS have signed Derek Robertson the former St Johnstone goalkeeper on a part-time contract. Robertson has been out of the game because of a dispute with the Perth side after 12 years at with the Perth side after 12 years at Muirton. The move follows the return to Yugoslavia of goalkeeper Milo Nizetic who played for the Edinburgh side in two friendlies — against Kilmarnock and Leicester — but broke a hand in the second. Nizetic was on a working holiday to give manager Eddie Turnbull an opportunity to assess him before making holiday to give manager. ing a signing offer.

ASHLEY Grimes, Manchester United's Eire international midfield star, now has a 250-strong fan club among . . stu-dents at LIVERPOOL University.

ASTON Villa's talented striker, Gary Shaw, knows exactly how the fans rate his performances.

until three years ago, Shaw, 19 in January, watched Villa from the Holte End. He keeps in touch with his old pals from the terraces and says: "They tell me what the crowd's reaction is to me and whether I'm getting any stick!"

EVEN rugby fans have caught the Best-mania that has been sweeping Edinburgh since former Man-chester United idol George Best signed for Hibernian. Two city rugby clubs now actually run coaches to Easter Road to watch the maestro in_action in home

FOURTH Division leaders Portsmouth have announced a profit of £112,600, thanks largely to the sale of centre-half Steve Foster to Brighton for £150,000, but they still have an overdraft of £277,663.

EX-GLENAVON midfielder Jim Harvey, currently in his third term with Arsenal, recently rejected a return to Irish League soccer with those other Glens — Glentoran — preferring, instead, to stay at Highbury and battle for a hitherto all-too-clusive first-team place.

Rebel Hamilton

ONLY a matter of weeks after claiming that Johnny Hamilton was the best midfield player in the First Division, St. Johnstone manager Alex Stuart has slapped him on the transfer list!

The former Hibs, Rangers and Millwell player was fined after missing a week's training and a rift developed between the player and the club. The only way it seems that the position will be resolved is if Hamilton is sold. Should be a bargain there for someone. Should be a bargain there for someone.

BURY'S directors have wasted no time in offering three-year contracts to manager Dave Connor and his coaching staff. It is a massive vote of confidence following the biggest shake-up the

club has had for years.

Half the first team were in the reserves at the start of the season. Seven players were on the transfer list at the end of 1979.

LINFIELD'S European Fund, set up after their two-match home Euro ban following spectator-trouble at the club's early-term away Champions' Cup-tie v. Dundalk, currently stands at more than the £13,000

HARTLEPOOL, struggling in the lower reaches of the Fourth Division, is still a magnet for scouts from bigger clubs.
Goalscoring striker Bob Newton remains a top target. Newton recently came out of prison after serving a sentence for motoring offences, but he's quickly found his scoring touch. Hartlepool could be willing to sell, but would want well over £100,000.
They're less keen to part with 17-year-old Paul Staff, who has just broken into the first team and been noted by England youth team boss

noted by England youth team boss John Cartwright. Staff turned down a chance to join

Liverpool because he wanted to play for a club in his native North East. Now Hartlepool see him as a future star and are determined to hang on, despite interest from Newcastle and Carlisle

DOES even Steve Ritchie himself know that in one respect he's unique among current players? He's the only one to have come into the Football League three times from Scotland. Bristol City first brought him South. Then he returned home — to Morton; came back — to Hereford United; then moved North again. North again — to Aberdeen; and now he's a Torquay United player!

Roker's new star-finder

THE new chief scout of Sunderland is Jimmy Greenhalgh, who virtually completed a North-East tour when he walked into Roker Perk.

Greenhalgh was with Newcastle United, as coach, when they won the Fairs Cup. A brief spell as Darlington's manager followed before he joined Middlesbrough's coaching staff 11 years ago.

An experienced campaigner, with a ready wit, Greenhalgh says: "I enjoyed my association with Middlesbrough, but I found Sunderland's offer very attractive."

Transfer chat

SHEFFIELD United want to buy Aberdeen's sweeper Neil Cooper, who is being kept out of the Pittodrie first team by the consistency of international skipper Willie Miller, who is still on the Bristol City wanted list . . . West Brom want to sign Meadowbank youngsters Gordon Fraser and David Conroy. Full-back Fraser and midfielder Conroy have been having a good season . . . Former St. Mirren utility player Derek Hyslop wants to leave Clyde . . . Rangers have been linked with Aberdeen's Doug Rougvie, the player who was ordered off against them in last season's League Cup Final. The Ibrox men have also watched young Kilmarnock centre-half Ken Armstrong.

EVERTON midfielder Andy King is desperate to win a place in the full England squad. "I hate the word 'wait'," he says. "It might sound as if I'm shouting the odds, but I did get 17 goals last season at 22. To do better than that would be an incredible record for a midfield player."

Andy is nothing but honest. After scoring in the last three Merseyside derbies against Liverpool, he admits: "All three could have ended up on the terraces. Still, it's fun to have a joke about them with Ray Clemence.
"I told him he doesn't know how hard I shoot — he's mever stopped one!"

stopped one!













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E's just about the toughest man in First Division football He certainly looks the fiercest when he's in combat, and that huge gap of missing teeth exposes two 'fangs' at either end of a tough, firmly-set mouth. At 27, big Joe Jordan is just about at his peak as an international star at one of Britain's top clubs.

But appearances can be deceptive. Of course, no one would pretend Joe Jordan is a softy. He insists on playing hard but fair. Frills and fancy touches are not in Jordan's repertoire at Manchester United; his game is to battle, fight hard, go in where it

hurts and take the knocks and kicks. It's a demanding job and you need to be a tough character to take it all.

Joe Jordan has had many critics. People have slammed his style, his approach to the game, his ferocity when it comes to challenges on the field. The sight of big Joe stalking away from the crumpled form of some defender, while the injured player's team-mates gather angrily around him, is nothing new to First Division audiences.

But there is another side to all that. If you think earning your living by getting kicked hard, often brutally, is something to be taken lightly, then you know nothing about professional football. Joe Jordan might LOOK tougher than most but he's the first to admit: 'My style means I am going to take the knocks. I may appear crude but I believe in total commitment when I go for the ball. But it doesn't deter me

because it's just part of my job."
Bookings and problems with
referees are nothing new, either,
to Joe Jordan. He's had his share of yellow cards for fouls, dissent and other misdemeanors on the field. Frankly, it's hard to think of many who wouldn't react when

punishment but flaring up isn't the answer. I've done it on the spur of the moment; and I always regret it. Maybe it's hard to curb the instinct to react and retaliate when you've been kicked by some defender. But that's what you have

to do. "I don't think it's for players to That is for the hand out justice. That is for the referee. He is the most important person on the field because he epresents the laws of the game. Without them, you don't have a game - just jungle warfare.

"They have a hard task, believe me," he says. "I'm out there with them, seeing what they have to



they're badly fouled.
Yet, perhaps surprisingly, Joe
Jordan won't accept that bookings
are inevitable in his job. "I get
fouled and sometimes badly. But
it's not up to me to defend myself,
it's for the reference defend in it's for the referee to do it. I think I've failed if I lose my cool on the field and retaliate. It's unprofessional and I shouldn't do it."

'Injuries'

That may sound surprising, but Jordan has clear thoughts on his role — and how he should accept it. "For a start, I've been fairly lucky with injuries. I know I was out for three months earlier this season but I've never had any really bad breaks. I suffer from niggling injuries, day-to-day bumps and bruises. They are often bad — I'm black and blue on a Saturday night after a match. But they're part and parcel of the job.
"I regard injuries as an

occupational hazard. Sometimes you fall awkwardly and injure yourself that way, without anyone even touching you. It's all a matter of luck. You get used to the knocks but the pulled muscles and strains are a blow because although they never seem much at the time, they can keep you out of action for long

"Bodily contact is my game, it's the way I have to play. There is no other way for me to get involved.

"Being so closely marked, I'm prone to getting kicked. Of course, there is a lot of physical

do. It's not an easy job, I know, and people have to try and accept their decisions. The referee can't keep everybody happy, that's impossible. Therefore, you have to allow their judgment on the spur of the moment because that's what it is. They don't have the advantages of TV replays and careful consideration

"I admit, I've criticised referees in the past. But I try hard not to argue with them on the field. I sometimes make remarks, as anyone would in the heat of the battle, but I feel they should give more protection to players in general, not just strikers. You do get inconsistencies but you will always get that as long as human beings are involved. Only robots

can solve that one!
"If I get involved with a player
who has fouled me, I'm breaking the laws and that's pointless. The referee is the man in charge and he

should sort it out, not me." At 27, Jordan is now in his ninth season in First Division football. Clearly, the same old battling instincts remain on the field and always will be there. That's the man's style. But it's encouraging to hear big Joe coming down firmly upon the side of law and order. Too many players have shirked that fact in recent years, to the detriment of the game and themselves

You won't find Joe Jordan being a 'softy' on the field. But you do find a player with a great deal of common-sense and feeling for the well-being of the game. And that is immensely heartening.

Why David Fairclough máy leave Liverpo

AVID Fairclough doesn't want to be known as Liverpool's 'Super Sub' for much longer. He'd rather be known as some-

body else's number one ... or number nine. Anything but the dreaded number 12 that he's worn

Says Fairclough: "I'm 22 now and I feel it is about time I had regular first team soccer.
"When I look around the First

Division, I feel sure I could do a lot better than many other players. So if I can't make it at Liverpool, I'll have to think about moving.

'Attraction'

"Obviously, Liverpool still have a special attraction for me. They are my home town club and I have had some great moments with them. But there's no point my staying just to play as sub — or worse still, in the reserves."

Fairclough has been sharing the substitutes' bench with Steve Heighway for much of the season, when he's not been banging in goals for the reserves.

He maintains a record of a goal a game in the Central League but they don't give him the same satisfaction as scoring less frequently against the likes of Pat Jennings

and Peter Shilton.
"It's a bit of a comedown playing reserve football when you've appeared in a European Cup Final. The fans give you a bad time, too.

"If you are a name player in the reserves, they expect you to beat half a dozen players and score a goal every time you get the ball. The only way to satisfy them is to be perfect."

Fairclough's best season for Liverpool was 1977-78, when he finally established himself as a regular starter and played in the European Cup Final success against

Bruges at Wembley.
But even then, he was told he would have to wait for his chance at the start of the following term.

"I didn't get in until November when we played Anderlecht in the European Super Cup competition, but early in the New Year, I suffered a thigh injury.

"It developed complications and

kept me out of action for four months. The whole season was a flop for me and with the team winning the title again, I couldn't complain when manager Bob Pais-

ley decided to start this season with the same team."
Fairclough doesn't, though, want to sit on the sidelines forever, even if Liverpool's sidelines are more comfortable than most.

"I've set a date in my mind for

when I think I should be back in the team and if it doesn't happen, I'll have to look to the future seri-

"I've given myself dates before and fortunately, I've always got back into the team by the

time they've arrived."
Fairclough has played a few first team games this season. But they were early on, when the team were struggling to recapture their Champ-

ionship form.

"Even the big name stars in the team weren't playing well and they were being criticised all over the country.

"But I was the one who became the fall guy. I was dropped which made it look as though the bad results were my fault."

Despite his disappointment, Fairclough always gives 100 per cent in the reserves.

'I try as hard in Central League games as in Division One matches. But I've got to get a first team break sometime this year or there's no point me being here."



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BIRMINGHAM City manager Jim Smith is not a man to mince his

"If we had had our present squad last season we would never have been relegated," he claims. "I'm confident that it will put us back into the top flight at the first

And if they do, Blues will look back to the sale of £1 million Trevor Francis to Nottingham Forest with a smile. For it is that fee which has enabled Smith to slowly but surely rebuild the side.

In his search for success Smith has opted for youth and experi-ence. But how does the Birming-ham boss describe the individual performances of 'The Players Tre-vor Francis Bought' since they appeared on the St. Andrew's

Alan Curbishley was the first of the newcomers when the 21-yearold midfield player entered the fold in a £225,000 deal with West Ham.

'In the main, I'm delighted with an," says Smith. "He's young







The players Trevor Francis

and he's still learning the game. He's blessed with tremendous ability, but he does have this problem of inconsistency.

Jeff Wealands, the goalkeeper who has seen service with Wolves, Darlington and Hull City, was the next to arrive in a £35,000 signing from the Boothferry Park club.

"He's done an extremely good job," says Smith.

Utility defender Terry Lees, whose previous clubs include Stoke, Port Vale and F.C. Roda, signed for £55,000 and made his debut at right-back.

"He's done everything we could have possibly asked from him,"

says Smith.
After five games Lees was dropped to make way for the incoming Colin Todd. When the ex-England international was made available by Everton at £250,000, Smith





Jim Smith (top left). Terry Lees (above left) and Colin Todd (left) are solid defenders. Jeff Wealands (top) a capable goalkeeper, and Tony Evans (above) a fine goalscorer.

stepped in.

"Everything has already been said about Colin, hasn't it? He's come to St. Andrew's and performed very well for us either at full-back or alongside the centrehalf. He's a class player and we're delighted to have him at Birming-ham City."

Tony Evans, the former Black-pool and Cardiff front man, edged

into St. Andrew's when Smith splashed out £120,000 on the unsettled Ninian Park striker.

"Tony started like a house on fire and did very well. Then a couple of broken toes put him out of action and he hasn't hit the high spots since.

After failing to tempt Derby's Roy McFarland to St. Andrew's, Smith then pulled off a master stroke when he persuaded the former St. Mirren, Preston, Derby





and Nottingham Forest Scottish international gem, Archie Gem-mill, to join the club. The fee? A

£150,000 gift.
"Archie!" exclaims Smith. "We certainly missed him while he was injured. He's a tremendous asset

In October, Willie Johnston, who gained fame as a player with Glasgow Rangers, West Brom and Vancouver Whitecaps, jetted in from

North America on loan for 'Willie's what he is. He blows

hot and cold, but he does a hell of a job when he's in possession. He frightens defences with his ability. He's also a tremendous character for the crowd. He's a top class winger."

The last of Smith's signings came in late November when Frank Worthington sauntered through the wrought iron gates of Birmingham City for a giveaway price of £150,000 from Bolton Wanderers.

"Again, what do you say about a player of his calibre? He's a well known goalscorer and we're confi-dent that he'll do well for us,"

continues Smith.

The Francis £1 million has now been spent. The profile of the squad has rested with the shrewd buying of players, but there are others who have cost nothing, and developed through the work put in by the backroom boys.

It all adds up to a very useful and capable squad and, as Smith says: "I think the mixture is right."



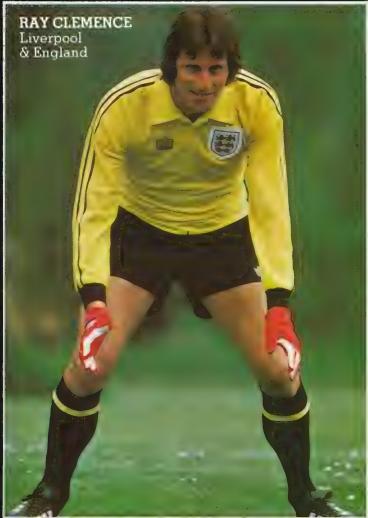


Archie Gemmill (above left), Alan Curbishley (top), Willie Johnston (left) and Frank Worthington (above) are First Division players taking Birmingham back to the top.



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NOT so very long ago, the names Brechin, Cowdenbeath, East Stirling and Stenhousemuir caused a hearty laugh amongst followers of Scotland's more fancied teams.

To them, these clubs conjured up a picture of matches played in near-empty grounds and players who had seen better days.

But this season some of these reputed poor country cousins of Scottish League football are hitting back at their critics.

East Stirling took over top spot in the Second Division from early pace-setters Montrose and although they have been swopping places in the top five recently they could well finish as the shockside of the year North of the border.

Enjoyed

Under manager Billy Lamont the Firs Park outfit are playing their best football since they enjoyed a brief spell in the old First Division in the early 60's.

For so long now they have had to play second-fiddle to their rivals from just up the road, Falkirk, but now Black and White favours are proudly shown again in Stirlingshire as a new generation warms to the skills of men like frontrunner lan Robertson and winger

Kenny Ashwood. It should be a family celebration

if East Stirling go up.
Manager Billy's son Paul has
now established himself in the first team and the vast experience the youngster must have gained as Scotland's 'Wee-vins'



an apprentice at the age of 17 when he joined Everton straight from school can only mean more good days ahead for his 'dad's'

While East Stirling are now building for the future another fairy-tale could come true just six miles away in Stenhousemuir. Former Clyde captain Harry Glasgow has worked a minor miracle with one of the smallest pools of players in Scotland and at present Muir's League placing is a credit to all the hard work everyone in the small Larbert town is putting in.

Club secretary Jim Weir summed it up when he commented: "We really appreciate what our fans are doing for the club. This League is now more competitive than ever and at the moment I would say nearly all of the 14 teams are in with a chance of the Championship."

Brechin are yet another of the "Wee-yins" who are shocking everyone, thanks mainly to the goalscoring exploits of lan Campbell who is the Second Division's

top scorer this season. Campbell was given a free transfer by his home town club Cow-denbeath in 1977 but was almost immediately snapped up by Glebe Park player-manager lan Stewart. Brechin are now also winning

praise off the field. Plans have just been unveiled to build a new grandstand at their ground. This is certainly a bold move for a club who usually finish in the depths of

the League. It is almost ten seasons since Cowdenbeath last played in the First Division, but now soccer in a higher grade could once more become a reality for the Fife club, after finishing fifth last season (their best performance since 1969/70).

Cowdenbeath are enjoying a fine run after a bad start to this season when after only five fixtures they lay bottom of the League.

Many supporters unfairly called for the sacking of young manager

Pat Wilson.

However a brave Wilson made it known that he would take the team into a leading position, and that he has done.

Recently old Cowdenbeath favourite Andy Rolland rejoined the ranks after 11 years at Dundee United and a successful season at

United and a successful season at nearby Dunfermline where he played a major part in helping them to promotion in 78/79.

Of course only two clubs can go up — but who will they be? Only the bookies dare hazard a guess just now and they make Falkirk favourites for the Championship with Fact Stirling second with East Stirling second.

SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO SHOOT!, IPC Magazines Ltd., King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London, SE1 9LS.

World Cupwinning side

What was the England team which beat West Germany 4-2 at Wembley in the 1966 World Cup Final?

ANDREW PARSONS, DEAL

This is how they lined-up that day, Andrew:

Andrew:
Gordon Banks (Leicester): George
Cohen (Fulham), Jack Charlton (Leeds),
Bobby Moore (West Ham), Ray Wilson
(Everton): Nobby Stiles (Manchester
Utd), Bobby Charlton (Manchester Utd),
Alan Ball (Blackpool); Geoff Hurst (West
Ham), Roger Hunt (Liverpool), Martin
Peters (West Ham),
Hammers' Hurst (three) and Peters
got the goals for England; Haller and
Weber scoring for the Germans.

Highest aggregate

What is the highest combined total of goals scored in any Football League game?

EDWARD NOONAN, LIVERPOOL

Seventeen is the number, Edward — and one of your local teams scored 13 of them.

them.
The date was Boxing Day, 1935 — and the scoreline Tranmere 13, Oldham 4 in the old Third Division (North).
Tranmere's Bunny Bell set up a new individual scoring record for the League with his nine goals — but, alas for him, it only lasted until the following Easter Monday when Joe Payne hit ten in Luton's 12-0 defeat of Bristol Rovers.

Best at Old Trafford

Could you tell me the first, and last, League game George Best played for Manchester United?

Mrs J. KENYON, WORSLEY

Bestie's first for United was in a 1-0 Old Trafford win over West Bromwich on 14th September, 1963.
 His 361st, and last, was in a 3-0 away defeat by Queens Park Rangers on 1st January, 1974.

George neither started, nor finished, for United with a goal — but scored 137 in-between those West Brom and Q.P.R. games.

McQueen in England

When did Manchester United's Gordon McQueen make his League debut in England?

FOUAD SIBLINI, LEBANON

For Leeds, Fouad, it was on 3rd March, 1973 — in a 3-2 away win over Derby — six months after his transfer from the Scottish club St. Mirren For Manchester United, it was in the 3-1 away defeat at Liverpool on 25th February, 1978.

The Doog

Which Football League clubs did Derek Dougan (below) play for? SHARON PARSONS. CANNOCK

Six in all, Sharon, with this outcome of "The Doog's" talents.
 Portsmouth (33 League games; nine goals); Blackburn (59 League games; 25 goals); Villa (51 League games; 19 goals).
 Peterborough (77 League games; 38 goals); Leicester (68 League games; 35 goals); and Wolves (258 League games; 93 goals).

Arsenal in the Second

Have Arsenal ever been out of the First Division?

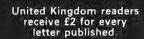
GILES WEST, WELLINGBOROUGH

· Yes, they have, Giles - though not often.
In fact, Arsenal haven't been out of it

In fact, Arsenal haven't been out of it since 1919 — making them easily the longest "sitting tenants" of the First — but they've certainly played in the Second Division in their earlier days.

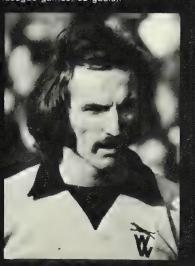
They made their Football League debut in the Second in 1893 — and gained promotion to the First in 1904, only to be relegated back in 1913.

Then, when the First Division was enlarged by two clubs in 1919, Arsenal were voted into one of the vacant places — and have successfully retained their top status ever since.



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Our Expert would like to point out that although all letters are read, he can only reply to published questions because of shortage of time.



Jock Wallace is too honest

NE result I look for each match-day after a Rangers game is that of an English Second Division team — Leicester City.
No prizes for guessing why. The

No prizes for guessing why. The reason is simple . . . Jock Wallace. The former Rangers boss took over the Filbert Street side two seasons ago and I would love to see him clinch promotion for the all hard work he has put into his job.

It was sad to see him leave lbrox though no one has any complaints about the way John Greig has been handling the job.

I was with the Scottish squad in Argentina for the World Cup when someone told me Jock Wallace had quit the job.

I simply couldn't believe it. I was amazed and thought someone

was trying to pull my leg. When it was confirmed, Tom Forsyth, Sandy Jardine and myself — the three Rangers players with the Scots in South America — talked about his possible succes-sor and we hoped it would go to

Mr. Greig.
Thankfully, the Rangers board were thinking along similar lines.

Dedicated

However, Jock Wallace will always remain something special to me. He is a thorough and dedicated professional who gives everything to his task. I think he has a fault though . . . he is too honest!

He is fiercely loyal to his players and will defend them at all times. Yet he can blast off and when you are on the receiving end of it you

know you deserve it.

But he won't go and tell anybody anything he wouldn't say to your face and professional footbal-lers certainly appreciate that.

Managers set the pattern for a club. If you get one who is continually moaning and complaining you can see that attitude coming through to the players on the field.

Take Liverpool, for instance. Former manager Bill Shankly and current boss Bob Paisley are the epitome of professionals and so, too, are the Anfield players. It's good to see Jock Wallace

doing well in England and if his sheer hard work and honest endeavour can get results, Leicester must clinch promotion this season.

I wish Mr. Wallace and my former Rangers team-mates Martin Henderson and Derek Strick-land the best of luck.

Actually, there is another English side for which I have always had a bit of a soft spot,

I used to watch them on TV in Dundee when I was a youngster and I marvelled at some of their

Greaves immediately springs to mind. He was fabulous in the penalty-box. How much do you think he would be worth in today's crazy transfer market? He guaranteed goals and that

must put him somewhere in the £2 million bracket.

Spurs had a fabulous team in those days with so many gifted individuals. They had fellow Dundonian Bill Brown in goal who rarely made a mistake.

Danny Blanchflower was an inspiration and, of course, there inspiration and, of course, there was another player guiding them with his dedication — Scottish international Dave Mackay.

His courage is legendary. He suffered two broken legs, but still came battling back in great style. I said before in my column that I was determined to become a professional footballer when I left school, but a lot of other boys

school, but a lot of other boys were thinking along the same

It seemed like an impossible dream, but I was always motivated when I thought of the glamour world of Spurs and the other big time teams.

My school master wasn't too happy with me and actually banned me from playing for my school because he thought my scholastic duties weren't getting the attention they warranted.

The school team then lost a couple of games on the trot and yours truly was reinstated.

While I enjoyed watching Spurs on the television my main love was Dundee United. I used to pop along to Tannadice to see them in action whenever it was possible.

I was born in the biggest council housing scheme in Dundee - the third youngest of seven sons, would you believe! — and there was a standing joke in our area about my father having to book the entire United stand when we went to a game.

You can imagine my joy when United invited me to train with them. Actually, I never got near the first team players.

Other youngsters and myself used to kick a ball around on a bit of waste ground beside Tannadice. Who said football was all glamour?

But that was the start of me on the road to becoming a professional footballer. I didn't go to United.

I received some good offers from both sides of the border — and also one from Celtic — but I decided to go to Rangers and I have never regretted that decision.

Needless to say, Rangers are the

closest to my heart, but I am still interested in how Spurs and Dundee United are getting on . . . after I have found out how Jock Wallace and Leicester have fared.

Jantan Jalli

DEREK JOHNSTONE

I'll sign off now with a quick joke picked up from Jock Wallace.

As you know Rangers colours are blue, red and white while the Leicester strip is blue and white. I heard that a player was coming off the pitch with blood streaming down his jersey after a collision and big Jock took a look at him and said: "That's the nearest you are ever going to get to wearing Rangers colours!"

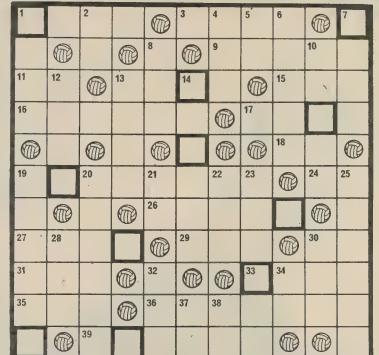
I like his style . . .

TARTAN TALK CELTIC'S DANNY

After solving the clues in this specially compiled crossword, you can use the letters in the thick-edged squares to form the name of:— an Ipswich Town midfield player. Answers on page 33.

ACROSS:-

- (1) Chri- --- tlin (Brighton). Felines from the omissions.
- (3) Micky -, Carlisle United.
- (9) Ea--er -o-d -ark (Hibernian
- ground).
 (11) St J-nstone, from Love Street.
 (13) Mills, Ipswich Town defender.
 (15) Rochd---, English Fourth Division club.
- (16) Steve -, Derby County midfield
- player.
 --mb-e-on from Plough Lane. (18)-- rman Hunter, former England
- defender. Park, ground of Crystal
- Palace. (24) Ken -w-in (Aston Villa). The missing letters reversed.
- (26) Pa-t-c-Thi--le. Female garment from the omissions.
- (27) Number worn by the centreforward.
- --- ter City, The Grecians.
- (31)
- Tony To--rs of Birmingham City. Take three letters from "The Stags" (Mansfield Town) to give "subside".
- (33) Not valid . . . like a postponed
- (35) Number of teams in the Scottish Premier Division whose names start with the "R".
- Roger -, Ipswich Town.
- (39) Bill -, "Footballer of the Year",



- DOWN:
- (1) Mick -, Coventry City defender. (2) Mickey -h-mas of Manchester United.
- Billy C---ey, N. Ireland striker.
- (5) Ph-1 -hompson, Liverpool captain.
- Ray -, Watford midfield

- player.
 (7) Travelled very fast.
 (8) John B---ey of Everton.
 (10) Scottish Second Division club from Recreation Park.
- Plymouth play at Park.
- (13) Interwoven . . . as the goalnet. (14) Jeff —, Sunderland defender.
- -, Crystal Palace (19) Kenny
- defender. (20) Thrusts or sudden forward move-
- ments.
- (21) Martyn B--by of Q.P.R.
 (22) Number of times Blackburn Rovers have won the F.A. Cup.
- Ross, Everton midfield player. Country venue of the 1958 World (25)
- Cup Finals.
 Wallace, Coventry City striker. (28)
- (30)
- Gain two league points.
 --ghe-d Park; D --ghe-d (32)Dumbarton ground.
- Brian H--ton of Brighton.

 James' Park, Newcastle (37) United.
- (38) Les -- rry of Charlton Athletic.

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OODY AND ME

BY DIETER MULLER

P Y one of those cruel twists of soccer fate, Kevin Keegan could easily find his Hamburger SV toppled from their position of Champions by 1.FC Cologne. And the man who is poised to do most damage to Keegan's chances of a second German Championship medal is his 24-year-old England team-mate Tony Woodcock

The Bundesliga starts again on January 19th after its winter-break and, at the moment, HSV and Cologne are neck-and-neck at the top.

Woodcock has played just three League games for Cologne, the best of which was his last, away to Bayer Uerdingen, when he had a hand in all three of his side's goals.

One person glad to see Woody arrive is Dieter Müller, Cologne's top scorer and the man most likely

to benefit from his presence.
Müller says: "Given some luck
and a run free of injuries, I believe I
can finish as the top scorer in the
Bundesliga. I have 14 so far, just
behind Burgsmüller of Dortmund.
Tony will certainly he a bir help in Tony will certainly be a big help in this respect

"I was delighted when Cologne signed Tony. From our matches against Nottingham Forest, I know how good a player he is. He will take a lot of pressure off me, as opponents now have two goalscorers to contend with. Tony isn't a centre-forward like me or Garry Birtles, with whom he had such a fine understanding. I'd say he was almost an attacking midfield player, able to create space for others.

"I have absolutely no doubt he will quickly adapt to the demands



Tony Woodcock and Dieter Müller, Cologne's new strike-force.

of the Bundesliga. Already this is obvious. It took Kevin Keegan a year in Hamburg. Dave Watson? Well, Bremen is completely different to Cologne or HSV. Watson had problems early t and never solved them.

"Tony will find himself especially marked as foreign players always are. He's found this out already. I know Kevin and Dave were sent-off in Germany, but this was a coincidence. There is no

anti-foreigners feeling here.
"I don't think language is too much of a problem, because on the pitch every language can be used.

Football is a universal game. Our captain, Bernd Cullmann, speaks

good English, I can get by and so can a few of the other lads."

When Woodcock signed for Cologne there was speculation that Müller (25) may be on the move

"Cologne would never sell me. What's more, I'm happy here and have no desire to leave or go abroad. The only complication is that we now have three foreigners and only two can play. This means either van Gool (Belgium) or Okudera (Japan) will have to sit on the bench and to be honest. I can't

see them accepting this situation. Van Gool has been injured, so the

matter hasn't arisen . . . yet.
"One thing I hope is that people don't compare Tony with Kevin Keegan. They are totally different types of players. I also hope the fans don't judge Tony too quickly. They must allow him the rest of this season to settle down in German soccer.

"I don't think there are that many differences between the two countries' football. The German game is a little faster and in England defenders are less likely to attack. What Tony will have to get used to more than anything is the man-for-man marking.

He will also be expected to do more defensive work, but he'll adapt, I'm sure."

England could meet West Germany in the European Championship this summer (this issue went to Press before the January 16th draw) and Ron Greenwood now has two 'spies' in the opposition camp. Will this help England beat West Germany for a

change?
"FÖR A CHANGE! English football has improved a lot recently and Mr. Greenwood has a lot of good players to choose from. England are my favourites to win the European Championship with

Italy and Germany."
If the two countries should meet, Greenwood is certain to be asking his two exiles a lot of questions. In the meantime, Woodcock and Keegan are rivals as the Bundesliga starts its second vital stage.

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EAMONN BANNON's soccer world hasn't so much tilted as done an amazing somersault in recent months.

recent months.

His own personal rollercoaster has run slightly amok in the past year, but, thankfully, things have worked out well for the Dundee United midfield player.

The ball started rolling when he moved from Hearts to Chelsea for £200,000. His euphoria didn't last long as the Stamford Bridge outfit slipped out of the First Division. Things got worse when Danny Blanchflower resigned and Geoff Hurst took over ... and promptly dropped the player.

Enter Jim McLean with a £165,000 cheque and exit Bannon from London, stepping into the history books as the highest-priced player in Scottish soccer. Then there was a recall into the

Then there was a recall into the Under-21 side, swiftly followed by a rapid promotion into the top squad and, capping it all, a League Cup winners medal!

It's been a breathtaking change in fortunes for Bannon who says.

I gained good experience in England even though I was only there for a short while. It won't do me

for a short while. It won't do me any harm, but I enjoy my soccer in Scotland. I am a lot happier here than I was in England."
Why did Geoff Hurst allow such a quality player to leave Chelsea? "I had to make up my mind quickly about certain players when I became the manager. I allowed Eamonn to go and J wish him the best of luck in Scotland with Dundee United," he explained.

"I honestly didn't think he would make the grade in the English First Division if we had been promoted."

oted

There aren't many supporters

soccer North of the border who would agree with that ... certainly not international supremo Jock Stein Stein promoted Bannon into his

full international pool on the eve of the League Cup Final replay against Aberdeen at Dens Park "If needed a boost, that was it," said Bannon.

Bannon's role in United's triumph was a vital one And he will certainly get better Dundes United's Jim McLean — the man who masterminded United's first major trophy victory in their his-tory — has no doubts about that "Once he settles into our pattern

we will get the best out of him," he says. "It's the same with Willie Pettigrew. We will find out how they like to play."

Dundee United might have been

fortunate to survive in the first game at Hampden where Aberdeen made a lot of chances at Hampden, but they deserved victory in the replay. There can be no doubt about that.

Requests

The win might persuade interna-

The win might persuade international duo David Narey and Graeme Payne to withdraw the transfer requests they made at the start of the season.

Certainly, United have some of the most gifted individuals in the game. As well as the formidable Bannon, Pettigrew, Narey and Payne they have skipper Paul Hegarty, the lightning swift Paul Sturrock, the reliable Derek Stark and under-rated 'keeper Hamish McAlpine.

McLean has worked hard in finding a settled pattern and he now feels that he has the players to put his thoughts into action on a con-

his thoughts into action on a con-

He wants his team to be the best in the land. That is his main aim and he is currently getting it through to players such as Eamonn Bannon that they have the ability to go all the way.



AIN Munro, 28-year-old St. Mir-ren left-back, had just made his Scottish international debut Scottish international debut against World Champions Argentina at Hampden and had encountered a new problem.

"Can you get me some pictures of the match," he asked plaintively. "It seems all my family and relations want snaps of me in a Scottish jersey. Can it be arranged?"

We're glad to say that Munro's appeal was answered, but the novelty of

being involved in the international set-up has worn off and the player is now a key man in Jock Stein's

plans. "I don't want to sound big-

"I don't want to sound bigheaded, but I always had faith in my ability," says Munro.
"I thought I had missed my chance. Let's face it, there aren't many outfield players who make their international debut at 28.

"I had played for my country at other levels, but I really wanted that full cap. I just played to the best of my ability and hoped that some day things would work out right."

And things certainly have worked out well for the intelligent, articulate Munro.

Stoke City wanted to pay £250,000 for his defensive skills

recently, but the Love Street board were determined to hold onto their talented full-back.

It's an outsize compliment to Munro's ability when you realise that St. Mirren weren't so slow to accept £300,000 from Liverpool for Frank McGarvey and £250,000 for Tony Fitzpatrick from Bristol City.

Although he is in no rush to leave St. Mirren and realises the club have been good to him in the past, it is possible that Munro is



the Rangers reject St.Mirren don't want to lose

intrigued by the possibility of playing in the English League. It's a natural curiosity that inflicts a lot of home-based Scots.

Munro, though, is a thorough professional and has the ability to put all these things behind him and concentrate on giving his all

for club and country.

"I've been around, I suppose,"
says Munro. "I've picked up a thing
or two from each club I have been at. I have tried not to waste any knowledge that has come my

Munro actually started his career with St. Mirren and immediately hit trouble with his former manager Wilson Humphries.

"I had this rather flash sports car at the time and the boss wanted me to get rid of it. He thought it was bad for my image. I sold it. Now I have a Rover . . . a very sensible car!"

Munro / alternated defence and midfield before moving on to Hibs in a bargain £30,000

ransfer deal.

"I enjoyed myself at Easter Road," says Munro. "They had so many good players at the time, men such as Pat Stanton, Alex Cropley, Joe Harper, Alan Gordon and Jim O'Rourke.

"Henever Bancare came along."

"However, Rangers came along and offered two players for me. Manager Eddie Turnbull accepted and I took off for ibrox. Unfortunately, my face just didn't fit.

"I did not get a settled first team run and when the oportunity came to join St. Mirren I thought it over carefully and decided to return. I

didn't see it as a backwards step."

Munro is now involved in soccer at the highest level, but with every passing international and every impressive 90 minutes his travels may not yet be at an end.

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o more transfers for me'

Rafferty's sixth League club; he also intends it to be his last.

After ten years as a footballer, he

After ten years as a tootoaller, he has rarely spent more than two seasons in the same place.

So 28-year-old Rafferty will be happy if he finishes his career at St James', coincidentally the ground where it started when he made his First Division debut with Coventry

He was on the losing side that day, Coventry going down 4-0. But that's an experience which isn't happening to him often since joining United.

ioining United.

"Things are going well for us, particularly at home, where we're getting fromendous support from the fans," says Rafferty.

"And I'm quite happy with my own form. I had a few problems in the first couple of games as I tried to adapt to United's style, but I'm beginning to work out a good understanding with Peter Withe and Alan Shoulder."

The big Scot is also hitting the target, as he had done regularly through a career which has seen him near the 100 target.

BILLY RAFFERTY (Newcastle)



He has got those goals for Coventry, Blackpool, Plymouth, Carlisle and Wolves since he was first spotted playing junior football

near Glasgow.
Just 17, he gave up his job as a trainee draughtsman to go to Coventry, but found his chances limited as the club repeatedly bought big-money players such as Neil Martin and Colin Stein.

The next stop was Blackpool, who had turned down the chance to sign him for nothing when he went to them for a week's trial.
The seaside club's boss, Bob
Stokoe, rated Rafferty highly, but
Stokoe soon left to take charge at
Sunderland and Rafferty was

quickly transferred to Plymouth.
There, he struck up a good
understanding with Paul Mariner,
which helped the club out of the Third Division, but after two

seasons — to the surprise of everybody including Rafferty — he was sold to Carlisle for £20,000.

Plymouth said they needed the cash urgently, but that didn't placate angry fans who threatened to boycott the club over the sale.

During his time at Carlisle,

Rafferty was constantly linked with bigger clubs. Finally, Wolves took the plunge and his goals helped keep them in the First Division in 1978.

He also scored some vital goals last season as Wolves moved into the F.A. Cup Semi-Finals, but lost

the F.A. Cup Sentinals, Successful His place to record-buy Andy Gray.
"I was disappointed because I wanted to play in the First Division," recalls Rafferty. "Things didn't work out as I hoped at Wolves — John Richards was injured for much of the time and we only played together in about

20 games.
"But, with my move to
Newcastle, I'm sure I'll be back in
the First Division next season.
There's a tremendous atmosphere at the place and some really first

at the place and some really first class players.

"Men like Stuart Boam, John Brownlie, Mick Martin, Peter Withe and Alan Shoulder are First Division class and we have a crowd that deserves the best.

"If I'm finally going to settle at one club, I can't think of a better place than born as Mayasatter.

place than here at Newcastle United."

TWO NORTH-EAST STARS PRESSING FOR PROMOTIO

'I can't explain our turn-around

UNDERLAND'S inconsistency could kill their promotion hopes. That's the criticism of the from none other than skipper Steve Whitworth. The former Leicester City and England fullback is the man with the job of leading them, but one aspect worries him and Sunderland.

Why has the side produced such odd results this season, compared to those of 1978-797

Whitworth explains: "Last season, Sunderland lost out on promotion because of our poor home form. We lost five games at Roker and drew three others. That was more than any of our promotion rivals and as we failed to go up by a single point, it's a fact of life that our home form cost us dearly.

"Away from home, we were terrific. We won nine games and drew eight, only losing four times. That was a better record than anyone in Division Two, apart from Stoke. If we had been anything like as good at home, we would have walked up into the First Division.

"But now look at the present campaign. We won nine and drew one of our first ten home games. We were almost invincible in the first half of the season. But away from Roker Park, we were terrible, nothing like promotion candilates.

STEVE WHITWORTH (Sunderland)



It is a worrying time for boss Ken Knighton, for Sunderland are des-perate to make it to the First this

Whitworth says: "No one can put his finger on it. We have been planning, playing and doing the same things. But suddenly, everything is the other way round from last season. Our home record has been magnificent but we've done

nothing away."
Whitworth took over the captaincy when Mick Docherty was forced to retire with a long term injury. The new skipper says: "I enjoy it. I don't think there was anyone in the club with the same amount of character as Mick, so we struggled when he had to pack up. But someone had to do the job and I volunteered. I've skippered in a quiet way but things don't seem to have been too disastrous with

me in charge.
"I'm 27 so experience counts for

Whitworth accepts that the promotion race is likely to be one of the tightest ever. "There are of the tightest ever. 'There are eight sides that could go up. I agree with people who say the standard isn't terribly high in Division Two this season. But they shouldn't think that makes our-task any easier. No matter what the level, teams in contention will always be in there battling to go up. It will be tough to clinch a promotion place.

"We want to do well. The boss has brought First Division class players to the club and that's a forward-looking policy. It's great going up but it's no use just struggling, and being relegated

"There's nothing to choose between the top teams. A lot of them are good Second Division sides without the quality required to stay in the First. But I think we're different; we HAVE class, First Division footballers capable of daing well if we cliebed promodoing well if we clinched promotion.

"There is quite a good chance of both Newcastle and Sunderland going up Newcastle are a solid, hard-working side. But I fancy West Ham to make it — they're a

very competent, workmaning outfit. "We will make it if we can sort out our problems and if we can improve our away form. You've got to be consistent to win promo-tion and if we can put that right we should be playing in the First Divi-sion next season. I think any side that puts together a good run of

about eight matches unbeaten will clinch it.

"One thing is for sure, though—it's going to be a great battle. I just hope we are one of the successful sides after going so close last season.



YOU may think it strange for an England international to sing the praises of Scotland, our fiercest international enemies. But right "hat", and putting on record my personal appreciation of what men from North of the border have done for the Anfield club.

Scotsmen have made a big conribution to the huge success achieved by Liverpool in the 60's and the 70's. And I'm sure will continue to do so in the next

decade.

The most influential Scot to stride the corridors of Anfield was not a player, but our former manager, Bill Shankly, a larger than life character who has become a living legend.

Shanks took over in the 60's, when the club was down in the Second Division and drawing crowds of only around 25,000. With his enthusiasm, shrewd judgement of a player, and identification with the fans he lifted us up into the First Division and the sections of a player. Division and to a string of glories.

It was Shanks who introduced the simple yet effective playing system we still employ, based on three

Rav Clemence TALKING SOCCER

elements: passing, movement and control.

They are drummed into every Liverpool player from the moment he joins the club, and it's not until he's mastered them that he can fully

play his part.
It was the greatest day of my life when Shanks signed me from Scunthorpe United and set me on course to undreamt-of honours at club and

international levels.

But it wasn't until I first reported for training at Melwood, before the start of the 1967-68 season, that I discovered he'd signed me under false pretences!

He'd told me that Tommy Law-

rence, Liverpool's Scottish interna-tional 'keeper, was around 30 and near retirement. In fact, Tommy was

So for two-and-a-half years I had to content myself mainly with reserve team football and bide my

But when I did take over the number one jersey from Tommy, I was a far better player than when I'd arrived.

My big breakthrough came as a result of Shanks ripping out the centre of the side, from front to back, after a sensational F.A. Cup knockout by Watford in 1970.

Shanks had a marvellous wit which endeared him to everyone apart from supporters of the opposition.

We all have our favourite stories which epitomise this unforgettable character. Mine concerns a certain five-a-side game after a training session when Shanks and his assistants were playing the reserves.

The goals were just sticks stuck in the ground without a crossbar. A reserve sent in a shot which he claimed was a goal, but Shanks disallowed it, claiming that it was over the invisible bar. The reserve persisted in his claim,

so Shanks turned to Chris Lawler, a first team man renowned for his extremely quiet manner, who was watching. Chris was injured at the time and not in training.

"Chris is an honest man," says Shanks. "We'll go by what he says... Chris, was it a goal or

"A goal, boss;" replied Chris,

sombre-faced. Shanks exploded and whirled on the others, hands spread. "You haven't spoken for ten years. And the first words you utter are a lie!"

Whether it was a European Cuptie or a five-a-side, our lovable, crop-haired former manager just couldn't bear to lose. He is the man



also reputed to have said: "Football isn't a matter of life or death. It's more important than that!"

In my experience one of the biggest virtues of Scots is their competitiveness and refusal to admit defeat.

Four of Shanks' side of the 60's were truly great Scots. There was Ron Yeats, a man mountain whom Shanks called a Colossus and invited people to walk around and admire.

I was fortunate to play behind Ron when he was nearing the end of his career, and even then he was magic with his head. I didn't have to think about dealing with crosses. Big Ron just nodded them away with ease.

His only fault was being a bit slow on the turn. But he compensated with long legs that would telescope out and rob an attacker of the ball.

Up-front there was lan St John,

similar in stature to Kenny Dalglish,

similar in stature to Kenny Dalglish, and with the ability to attain amazing height to head a ball.
I'll never forget the brilliant header from an Ian Callaghan cross which won the 1965 F.A. Cup Final against Leeds United after extratime. As a Scunthorpe player then, I only saw it on TV. only saw it on TV.
In midfield there was Willie

Stevenson, a Scottish international, who combined superbly with Gordon Milne, now the manager at Coventry City. Willie was so versatile, he could play equally well at full-back.

And in goal, of course, was the bulky Tommy Lawrence, affection-ately christened "The Flying Pig" by the wags of The Kop.

Tommy, in my opinion, didn't get e credit he deserved, even

DEBT TO

though he won caps for Scotland. He was the original sweeper-keeper operating behind the back-four, a role which I inherited.

While Ron dealt with crosses, Tommy dived fearlessly at the feet of opponents and started attacks with well placed kicks.

Another characteristic of Scots, apart from their tenacity, is the high degree of ball-skill they possess. This was particularly evident in Peter Cormack, who came to us via Hibs and Nottingham Forest.

Originally a striker, he was converted to the left-sided midfield position, one now occupied by Ray Kennedy.

Peter's greatest goal for us was in a vital match against Norwich City in the run-in to a Championship when he disregarded flailing boots to



GREAT SCOTS



'LIVERPOOL'S

throw himself forward like a cross-bow bolt and head the only goal of the game. Those two points helped us take the title.

Most of Peter's goals tended to be spectacular like that one. But on occasions he would miss a simple tap-in from six yards out.

I'm sorry to see that a persistent injury is preventing him from getting a regular place in the Bristol City side. I wouldn't be surprised if he didn't move back to a club near us, for I know that his wife loves the life on Merseyside.

Although Scots have played such a big part in Liverpool's success story, it's amazing that we won our greatest honour — the European Cup in 1977 — without even one in the squad!

In fact, we almost did the treble without their services

But when we took the trophy the following year for a British record second time, there were three Scots in our line-up: Kenny Dalglish, Alan Hansen and Graeme Souness.

Alan came in for Tommy Smith, scorer of that so-important second goal in Rome against Borussia Mon-chengladbach the previous year, who had accidentally put himself out of action by dropping a pickaxe

on his foot.

This trio form a vital central section in the team: Kenny up-front, Graeme as anchor man in midfield, and Alan in the centre of the defence.

Kenny, as I've said before, is a marvellous player, capable of hold-

'lan St John won the 1965 F.A. Cup with a spectacular header'

'Mighty Ron Yeats dealt superbly with all crosses'

ing off the strongest challenge until he can either get a shot in himself or

make a telling pass to a team-mate.
That goal he scored against
Bruges at Wembley in the 1978
European Cup Final alone repaid
the £440,000 we paid for him.

Graeme, a strong, highly-skilful player, has settled into our system well. He's one of the finest midfield men ever to wear our red shirt.

However, he's the last one to go forward and try to score. At the start of the season he struck a bet with Terry McDermott that he'd score

more goals. He's already paid up!
Alan Hansen, despite being dropped by Scotland for the two games against Belgium, which they lost, must be a certainty for the 1982
World Cup competition.

He's exceptionally sound in defence; and going forward, taking opponents on, playing one-twos with team-mates, he reminds me of a young Franz Beckenbauer, the famous former West German captain.
With those three now playing on

top form, Liverpool must gain at least one honour this season.

Apart from our 1977 side, I can't think of a significant trophywinning English club that hasn't had Scots in its ranks.
Their skill and will-to-win, as I've

said, make them invaluable. But on the debit side, many have fiery temperaments which can backfire and get them into trouble.

Respect

This Saturday, we play Coventry City away at Highfield Road, and there could be two Scots in their side who we hold in great respect.

There's lan Wallace, a very dangerous man in the 18-yard box, the state of high personage of halls.

dangerous man in the 18-yard box, who gets a high percentage of balls on the goal. He's combined nicely with Mike Ferguson, a Geordie.

On the wing there's Tommy Hutchison, a spectacular player who perhaps should have accomplished more than he has done at plished more than he has done, at club and international levels. His failing is he operates in bursts and isn't in a game for the entire 90 minutes. But when he's turning on all his skill, he's a real handful for any defender.

Coventry are finding it hard to win away — we beat them 4-0 at Anfield — yet are a different proposition at home where they have a good record, having lost only a handful this season.

One defeat was against Manchester United, currently our biggest rivals in the League, so we'll be out

Here's hoping the winning goal is scored by a Scotsman — and he's our number seven, Kenny Dalglish.

Lay Semon











Sunderland's 'Pop' Robson is leading the Wearside revival this season. A familiar sight (right), Rangers with the Scottish Cup. Here captain John Greig and 'keeper Peter McCloy receive the trophy after their 1976 victory over Hearts.





Southampton, then in the Second Division, upset all the odds in 1976 when they beat Manchester United 1-0 with a goal from Bobby Stokes. Aberdeen's tethal striker Joe Harper (right).





Manchester United's Stuart Pearson outjumps Emlyn Hughes and Tommy Smith of Liverpool in the 1977 F.A. Cup Final, which United won 2-1 (above). Garth Crooks (left) of Stoke has been scoring with sufficient regularity this season.

F.A. Cup 5th. Round **Scottish Cup 4th.Round**

THE FINAL LINE-UP

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F.A.Cup Finals

NE of the biggest surprise packets to burst on the big time scene this season is Paul Allen, of West Ham.

Paul who? That's what Hammers fans were asking when the 17-year-old midfield kid was named for his debut in the League Cup tie against Southend in Sentember

They soon found out. For Paul proved such an instant hit he helped revive the faltering Hammers and launched them on a run that took them up among the Second Division leaders.

Football runs in the Allen family for his uncle Les played for Chelsea, Tottenham and Q.P.R. and managed Rangers and Swindon for a spell.

Swindon for a spell.

Cousin Clive has emerged this season as one of the best young strikers in the country — rattling in goals at an incredible rate for Q.P.R.

Hardly surprising that Paul — who comes from Aveley, in Essex — was a Rangers fan as a kid. He would have joined them if they had made an offer.

But they never, because he did not show any outstanding promise as a schoolboy.

West Ham saw enough in him though to ask him to become an apprentice. And their judgment is now being rewarded in a big way.

Paul, slightly built, quietly spoken and very shy, hardly seems the sort to be able to look after himself in the hurly burly of modern day football.

Deceive

But one quick look at him in action reveals that those looks deceive.

The lamb becomes a lion as he roars around in midfield, devouring opponents with the ferocity of his tackling.

Before he was anywhere near a place in the first team West Ham boss John Lyall was predicting an outstanding future for Paul — skipper of the England Youth team last year.

team last year.

And that prediction seems more certain to come true with every game that Allen plays.

game that Allen plays.

His call-up to the senior side came as something of a surprise to Paul. But he adjusted to life at the top so quickly it now seems as though he has been there for years, and the team certainly would not be the same without him.

"I got my big chance in September, after the first team had lost 3-0 at Q.P.R.", explains Paul.

"But it came as a surprise because on the same day I was in the reserve side that got whipped 4-1 at home, also by Rangers. I must admit I did not expect to get promotion after that!"

But he was nevertheless promoted. It proved one of the shrewdest moves John Lyall has ever made.

Paul's presence revitalised The Hammers and launched them on a run of success that enabled them to wipe out early season indifference and get their fans thinking about regaining their place in the First Division.

With typical modesty, Paul hands the praise for the way he

Les Allen (front row, second right) with Tottenham's 'double' winning team in 1961. Team, back row, left to right: Brown, Baker, Henry, Blanchflower, Norman, Mackay. Front row: Jones, White, Smith, Allen, Dyson.



Allens hope to keep

success in the

family



Paul Allen is maintaining a fine midfield tradition at West Ham.

has settled in to his team mates.
"They have all been great and
could not have been more helpful
to me. I'll always be grateful to the
way they made me feel at home,"

And he singles out midfield colleague Pat Holland — so often the whipping boy of the Upton Park fans — for special mention.

"I can't understand why the supporters get on to him. I think he is a tremendous player.

"He does a lot of work many people do not notice and never stops working throughout the entire match.

"Ever since I've been in the side I'm staggered at the graft he gets through. Yet he still finds the time to encourage me, to tell me to keep going and offer any help I need. He's great."

need. He's great."
As far as The Hammers fans are

concerned Paul Allen is great, too. He might be small in stature — but he is very big in ability and seems certain to go a long way in the game.

He is already favourite to break the record for winning England Youth caps. That's held at the moment by a fellow called Bobby Moore — not exactly unheard of round Upton Park way.

And the way things are going for him now that will be followed by bigger honours in the not too distant future.

The future looks equally bright for cousin Clive Allen, but six months ago he was so disenchanted with football it would not have bothered him if he had never played the game again.

A heartbreaking experience in Vienna — where he missed a penalty against Bulgaria that cost the England Youth team a place in the Little World Cup Final — left 18-year-old Clive shattered and ready to pack it all in.

England Youth boss John

Clive Allen (hoops) has soon made an impact for Q.P.R. this season.



Cartwright had a heart-to-heart chat with the disconsolate kid and told him to put that bitter experience behind him and get on with the thing he does best — scoring goals.

Clive got the message and has

responded in sensational style, scoring freely as new-look Queens Park Rangers surged up among the Second Division leaders.

He actually made his first team debut last April, marking it with a hat-trick as Rangers whipped Coventry 5-1 in one of their last games as a First Division side.

But it was new boss Tommy Docherty — always a believer in youth — who gave the player from Hornchurch an extended chance to show what he can do.

And Clive, son of former
Tottenham and Chelsea star Les
Albert took that chance with both

His goal tally shot quickly into double figures as Rangers hit the form that marked them down as favourites for promotion. The misery of that night in Vienna is now forgotten and match days can't come round quickly enough for Clive — or his colleagues.

"Things are going better than I could ever have dreamed of — it's been a fantastic season so far,"

Allen told us.

"My main target when the new season got under way was to try and establish myself. I would have settled for managing to hold down a place in the first team.

"Getting among the goals the way I have has been a real bonus and I still find it hard to believe it's really all happening for me.

"Missing that penalty in Vienna when we lost 1-0 to Bulgaria in the Little World Cup Semi-Final has proved the real turning point of my career.

"At the time I thought it was the end of the world. I was sick at letting the rest of the lads down and at the time I did not care

whether I ever saw a football

"But John Cartwright was absolutely marvellous to me. He took me to one side and gave me great encouragement and told me to forget all about it. "It took some time to do that, but I did eventually put it behind me. And now things could not be going better.

going better.
"Tommy Docherty's arrival has transformed the club. He has filled everyone with confidence and the whole atmosphere has changed.

"The Bush has come alive, with everyone buzzing and looking forward eagerly to playing. That was not the case last year, when confidence took a knock and the place was like a morgue as we got relegated from the First Division.

"The Doc is a real character. He has seen it all, done it all and knows the problems players have to contend with. He laughs and jokes the whole time to take the pressure off us.

"It is clearly the right philosophy. For spirit is tremendous and the way things are going we all fancy our chances of coincy up."

of going up."

If Rangers do climb back to the top flight at the first attempt it's a sure bet Allen's goals will play a huge part in taking them there.

He is a real chip off the old block and the staggering progress he has made this season makes him one of the game's most outstanding prospects. England Schools and Youth

England Schools and Youth honours were followed in November when he was named to play in a Young England side against Reading, for 'keeper Steve Death's Testimonial.

A place in the Under 21 team is Clive's next target. And the way things are going for him now that won't be long coming. With youngsters like him

With youngsters like him breaking through the future of our football is in capable hands.

Satisfaction

Les Allen can be forgiven a smile of satisfaction as he sees the remarkable impact son Clive is making on the soccer scene this season.

Clive himself readily admits his Dad is his biggest fan — and sternest critic — and knows he really has to produce the goods to satisfy him.

Les encouraged him and coached him from the time Clive was old enough to walk and many hours of patient effort are now being rewarded.

Les made his mark as a member of the Tottenham team that did the 'double' in 1961. He also played for Q.P.R. and later managed the club, which influenced Clive's decision to join them.

Les also had a spell as manager of Swindon and is now scouting for Bristol City. He goes and watches players City boss Alan Dicks has had reports on and also runs the rule over future opponents.

That is done on a part-time basis. For Les is now back working where he first started — as a craftsman at the Ford Motor

Company.
Football owes him a debt for helping to produce such an outstanding young player as Clive.

And with Paul Allen making equally rapid progress for West Ham, the future looks bright not only for the football family Allen, but for England fans as well.





BOBBY MOORE

I'S one of the ironies of footbal! that while a man who has led his country to World Cup Final victory has to begin his managerial career in the Berger Isthmian League, another man who never even played in the Football League starts out in the Third Division having turned down several offers.

The careers of Bobby Moore and Mike Smith are poles apart, yet in a way they mirror the uncertainty of football.

When Moore, the golden boy of British soccer, held the Jules Rimet trophy aloft in 1966, to the collective glee of a nation, you'd have wagered a fortune he was merely starting out on a lifetime of lucrative success.

Yet when it came to putting the boots away and offering himself for a manager's job, nobody seemed to want to know.

Sure there were rumours, Bobby's name was linked with more clubs than Britt Ekland has had boyfriends, but there was never anything at the end of it.

The nearest he came was when Elton John saw Moore as the maestro to put the sting back in his Hornets at Watford.

But there was unexpected haggling and instead of Moore going down the Yellow Brick Road, Graham Taylor arrived with spectacular results.

So in the end the ex-England captain has had to settle for ramshackle Oxford City.

There was a day when the City were tops in the university town, but United dropped the Headington in their title, and overtook their rivals

City have been left so far behind. they're down to crowds of 300, the terraces are decaying, the three stands have a haunting emptiness about them, and the club looks its

age — 97 years old.

So can Moore do enough with Oxford City to win opportunities from above and perhaps even press for promotion to the Football-League?

Failure

Well he probably believes they can sink no further. But if he doesn't pull them up by their bootlaces, people will see that as faiand there'll be no higher bidders.

Bobby's managerial career got off to a disastrous start on Boxing Day, when he watched his team beaten 5-0 at home by Wycombe Wanderers.

"I had only seen the lads play one game prior to this," said Bobby. "I shall be giving other players a chance. I knew when I took over it was going to take time.

Sadly Oxford City now face relegation from the Premier Division of the Berger Isthmian League — unless the Moore magic starts to work again soon.
Mike Smith's story is exactly the

opposite.

As a player he didn't begin. Far from winning World Cups, he was



more involved teaching schoolboys in Brighton.

But in 1967 he became director of coaching for the Welsh F.A., and so much did he impress that when the post of manager became vac-ant in 1974, the Welsh had to look no further than the able and affable Smith.

Since then he has done a marvellous job winning the respect and admiration of players and administrators alike, but now the time has come for a test of a different kind.

Last year Smith could have become Birmingham's manager. He did — but that was Jim Smith and not Mike.

— and not Mike.

"I could have gone to Birmingham, but I didn't think the time" was right," said Mike.

"In this job you can't choose the club, they have to choose you, and it isn't always the right one that comes along, but I think the time is perfect now, and Hull City are a perfect now, and Hull City are a fine club. It's nothing short of disgraceful that they're in their present predicament

So as Bobby Moore and Mike Smith arrive at new crossroads, one can only hope both have made the right turning.





Punch-ups in soccer are all too frequent nowadays, but goal-keepers around the country have never been afraid to use their fists. Dundee's Ally Donaldson is quick to put his dukes up against Celtic (above left), while Manchester United's Gary Bailey follows suit to clear the danger against rivals City (above centre). Everton's Martin Hodge is also first in against Arsenal (top right), but Aston Villa's Jimmy Rimmer needs courage, not height, to clear from the boot of Wolves striker Andy Gray (below). Taking it on the chin—that's Watford's Andy Rankin (right) under challenge from Bob Hazell of Q.P.R.







and I spent most of my available hours in trying to get fit again as quickly as possible. Getting knocks is something that players have to learn to live with, though I believe part of our lack of success has been putting our game together as well as we did a year ago, but it isn't because of lack of effort. Sometimes, no matter how hard been due to not being able to field settled team

Different

"A year ago, there were at least seven men in the side who played regularly, week in and week out yet the situation has been different this season. Due to injuries, there have been only two or three players who have turned out for an unbroken run.

Statham, who missed only three out of the 42 League matches for Albion last season, still considers his debut for the club in 1976, against Stoke, to be a memorable occasion in his career Playing at full-back, he managed to score a

goal.

"That first game was a thrilling experience for me. It was also great to be a member of the England Under-21 and "B" squads, but disappointing when I've been unable to join them on account of injury or club calls.

"With West Bromwich, my worst moments were when we lost to Ipswich in the 1978 F.A. Cup Semi-Final. To get so close to

Semi-Final. To get so close to Wembley and lose was a real setback

"But that's all behind me. For the future, I'm concentrating on the job in hand — to help improve Albion's League position

Sometimes, no matter how hard you try, things don't seem to improve, and this can lead to a lack of confidence. We've also been missing chances which at one time would have been tucked away. "Not being able to place a finger on what is wrong is frustrating, yet having said that, I feel that Albion's loss of form is a temporary thing. Look at Nottingham Forest and their run of defeats late in the and their run of defeats late in the year. All sorts of questions were

"I'm well aware that we haven't

asked about whether they were over the hill, and ready to slide The media, television and Press, are always ready to pounce on a team which they had previously helped to build up.

Both Forest and Albion have gone through bad patches but are capable of pulling themselves up. To be consistent all the time is terribly difficult, as I think Man-chester United will discover in the coming months.

Only one team, Liverpool, seem fairly immune to suffering from a real lapse in form. They have their own style, their own way of doing everything, which keeps them ahead of the rest."

In addition to his concern as Albion strive for a winning blend. Statham has had a personal prob-lem to worry about — an injured

Says Derek: "Being out for weeks with damaged ligaments was a big disappointment to me,

ANY players don't keep a record of their career, but I have a book in which I have details of every professional goal I've ever scored. I list the date, opponents, venue and my goal(s). At the end of my career, it will be nice to look back over the goals I've scored, which brings me to letter for which brings me to a letter from Wolves fan Richard Drake of Finchfield who wants to know if I think my £1.5 million fee will ever be broken.

I was talking about this the other day with some friends and I reckon it could well stand for ever. The new rulings regarding a maximum fee of £500,000 at the end of a player's contract will surely be introduced in England soon. It seems crazy to have a rule in most countries, but

not all of them.

Quite a few of our top players, such as Liam Brady, who would command fees of more than £1.5 million on the open British market have a feeling our fees will be peg-ged like those in Europe. We've fallen in line with the Continentals in many respects and I expect a maximum fee ruling to apply here, too, during the 80's.

My fee has never worried me. I

get 'stick' away from home . . . you know, "what a waste of money". I

always remember what a senior pro told me early in my career and that is bad players aren't taunted. The jeers are like water off a duck's back to me as I concentrate on silencing the opposing fans by scoring against their side.

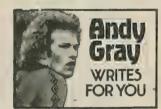
Mind you, I wouldn't have liked to have been Trevor Francis, the player who broke the £1 million barrier. There has been more pressure on him than myself or

Steve Daley.

I can never really repay the huge fee Wolves paid for me. All I can do is to score as many goals as possible and help them to honours. I'm reasonably, if not totally, satisfied with the way things have gone this season, although I've said all along you won't see the best of Wolves and Andy Gray until 1980/81.

Something I am far from happy with is the way my Scotland career is progressing; or rather, not progressing. I didn't win a single cap during 1979 for one reason or another and my big fear is that Jock Stein will think I'm unreliable.

I cannot tell you how upset I was to miss the Belgium game at Hamp-



den. The gods seemed against me all along. I was selected for the squad, but had to drop out because of Wolves' League Cup replay against Grimsby Town at Derby. It was small consolation that we won.

I won my first Scotland cap aged 19 and now, five years later, I have no more than a handful of caps to my credit. I've had a FIFA suspension which, in effect, robbed me of more than just three caps as Ally MacLeod was reluctant to chop and change the team. I've been injured, but more recently it's been a clash of fixtures that has worked against me.

At 24, I feel I should be an established international by now. Instead, I'm virtually starting my Scotland career again and I desperately hope Mr Stein doesn't over-

look me.

n totally behind what he is nying to do with the international team, despite the poor results. After the disappointment of the 1978 World Cup, Scottish football needed a facelift and Mr Stein is changing the style from blood and thunder to a more sophisticated type of soccer. We need to play with less passion and more thought. I'm not suggesting any Scotland player is not proud to pull on the famous blue shirt — far from it. But we must adapt to the needs of modern international football and a battle-charge simply doesn't work at that level.

Jock Stein's knowledge of the game is unquestionable and his record with Celtic bears comparison with any other manager's. I like the way he is giving youngsters an extended run, rather than pass



instant judgment after one match.

The manager will continue to try new fâces, although I doubt whether he will disregard experienced stars such as Gordon McQueen, Kenny Dalglish and Graeme Souness. Even though 1979 was a poor year in terms of results, I'm optimistic for 1980 and I just hope I can be part of Scotland's future.

International soccer is now very much geared around World Cups. When one ends, planning for the next begins and Mr Stein has already started his preparation for Spain, 1982. This makes me believe that the World Cup will become even harder to win in the coming years as countries are taking it that much more seriously.

Like an Olympic athlete, they are gearing themselves to reach a peak every four years, which is an indication of how prestigious the World

Cup has become.

few more letters, now, and Derek Richards, who lives in Epsom, would like to know what I was doing this time ten years ago. I was 14 at the time and I was prob-

ably dreaming about being where I am now. As a teenager, I was at school in Drumchapel where my only ambition was to become a footballer. Where I'll be ten years from now is much harder to say.

Wolves follower Jennifer Green, who lives in Bishopswood, has asked me to clear up the situation regarding the club's penalty taker. After three successive failures Peter Daniel gave up the job and Kenny Hibbitt took over. His first was against Grimsby in the League Cup replay. I'm waiting in the wings for my chance. I took the spot-kicks at Villa and it's a good way to boost your goal-tally. A free shot from 12 yards with only the 'keeper to beat must put the odds in favour of the taker, although it doesn't always work out like that!

"Who is the greatest player you saw in the 70's?" asks Andrew Walker of Harlow. Hmmm . . . what a choice! I'd have to plump for Johan Cruyff as the most complete. Johan had everything — probably still has, but is in semi-retirement with the Los Angeles Azte's dow. Skill, technique, vision, speed, you



name it, Cruyff had it. He made goals, scored them and few players could stamp their personality on a match as Cruyff could.

This Saturday (19th January) I hope to line-up against one of my best pals in football, who is also one of the game's top characters ... Crystal Palace goalkeeper John Burridge, known to all as Budgie.

The two sides have met quite a lot

in the past couple of years, in the League and Cups, and so far we have had the upper hand.

Neither team has been doing particularly well in the League in recent weeks, although the middle of the table is so fight one day you of the table is so tight, one day you can be challenging for Europe, the next in the relegation zone!

On our last visit to Selhurst Park we beat Palace in the League Cup. A milar away win in the League is just what we need now.

sually have a bet with Budgie efore we play and I'm not sure he paid me for the League Cup tie! Whatever the result, I hope we'll have a quick drink and a chat after the metal based on the sure that the match and you never know, I may be able to get a word in!

Join me again in a fortnight,

My record fee could sta

Scottish team-mates Gordon McQueen (kneeling), Andy Gray and Martin Buchan.





E-UPS...RESULTS...SCORERS

Saturday, December 1

First Division

Continued

Brown, Powell, Robson, Reeves, Fashanu, Pad-

Aston Villa: Rimmer; Swain, Pejic, Evans, McNaught, Mortimer, Bremner, Little, Geddis, Cowans, Shaw.

NOTTM. FOREST (0) 1 (Birtles) ARSENAL (1) 1 (Stapleton) 27,925 Nottm. Forest: Shilton; Anderson, Gray, McGovern, Lloyd, Burns, O'Neill, O'Hare, Birtles, Francis, Robertson.

Arsenal: Jennings; Devine, Nelson, Talbot.

O'Leary, Walford, Gatting, Sunderland, Stapleton, Price, Rix.

SOUTHAMPTON (1) 3 (Boyer 2, Channon) STOKE (0) 1 (Irvine)

20.095 Southampton: Wells; Golac, Peach, Williams, Watson, Nicholl, Ball, Channon, Boyer, Holmes,

Stoke: Jones; Evans, Scott, Johnson, Dodd, Doyle, Irvine, Heath, O'Callaghan, Crooks, Randall (Chapman)

TOTTENHAM (1) 1 (Hoddle) MAN. UTD. (0) 2 (Macari, Coppell)

51,389 Tottenham: Aleksic; Hughton; McAllister, Pratt, Smith, Perryman, Ardiles, Jones, Armstrong, Villa.

Man. Utd: Bailey; Nicholl, Grimes, McIlroy, Moran, Buchan, Coppell, Wilkins, Jordan, Macari, Thomas.

W.B.A. (1) 1 (Regis) EVERTON (1) 1 (King)

21,294 W.B.A.: Godden; Batson, Pendrey, Brown (T), Wile, Robertson, Robson, Brown (A), Regis, Owen, Barnes.

Everton: Hodge; Gidman, Bailey, Wright, Higgins, Ross, Hartford, Stanley, Latchford, Kidd, King.

Second Division

BIRMINGHAM (0) 1 (Gallagher) LEICESTER (1) 2 (Smith, Henderson)

Birmingham: Wealands; Lees, Dennis, Curbishley, Gallagher, Todd, Towers (Lynex), Worthington, Bertschin, Dillon, Johnston. Leicester: Wallington; Williams, Rofe, Byrne, May, O'Neill, Lineker, Henderson, Young, Strickland (Welsh), Smith.

BRISTOL R (0) 0 BURNLEY (0) 0 Bristol R: Jones (G), Bater, Williams, Mabbutt,

Taylor, Aitken, Barrowclough (Penny), Parkinson, White, Dennehy, Pulis.

Burnley: Stevenson; Arins, Brennan, Burke, Overson (V), Dixon, James, Dobson, Hamilton, Young, Smith.

CAMBRIDGE (1) 2 (Spriggs, Murray) Q.P.R. (1) 1 (Bowles) 8,083 Cambridge: Webster, Turner, Smith, Stringer, Fallon, O'Neill, Biley, Spriggs, Reilly, Gibbins,

Murray. Q.P.R.: Woods; Shanks, Wallace, McCreery, Hazell, Wicks, Bowles, Roeder, Allen, Goddard, Hill (Waddock).

CARDIFF (0) 1 (Bishop) OLDHAM (0) 0

.7,061 Cardiff: Davies; Dwyer, Sullivan, Campbell, Pontin, Thomas, Elliott, Bishop, Moore, Ronson,

Oldham: McDonnell; Wood, Blair, Keegan, Clements, Holt, Valentine, Atkinson, Halom, Stainrod (Hurst), Steel.

WEST HAM (0) 0 Chariton: Wood; Hazell, Shaw, Tydeman, Berry, Madden, Powell, Jacobson, Hales, Walker, Gritt.

West Ham: Parkes; Stewart, Lampard, Bonds, Martin, Holland (Neighbour), Allen, Pearson, Cross, Brooking, Devonshire.

CHELSEA (1) 2 (Droy, Britton)

PRESTON (0) 0 21,192 Chelsea: Borota; Locke, Wilkins, Bumstead, Droy, Chivers, Britton, Fillery, Frost, Walker,

Preston: Tunks; Taylor, Wilson, Burns (Coleman), Baxter, O'Riordan, Bell, Haslegrave, Elliott, McGee, Bruce.

NEWCASTLE (1) 2 (Withe, Rafferty) FULHAM (0) 0 Newcastle: Hardwick; Carney, Mitchell, Martin, Barton, Boam, Shoulder, Cartwright, Withe, Rafferty, Hibbitt.

Fulham: Digweed; Peters, Strong, Money, Hatter, Gale, Greenaway, Beck, Guthrie, Lock,

ORIENT (1) 2 (Jennings, Taylor) SUNDERLAND (0) 1 (Robson) 6,582 Orient: Day; Fisher, Roffey, Taylor, Gray, Moores, Chiedozie, Hughton, Mayo, Jennings, Coates.

Sunderland: Turner; Whitworth, Bolton, Clarke, Elliott, Buckley, Arnott, Cummins, Hawley (Brown), Robson, Dunn,

SHREWSBURY (1) 1 (Keay) LUTON (2) 2 (Stein, Hatton) 8,559 Shrewsbury: Mulhearn, King, Larkin, Lindsay, Griffin, Keay, Tong, Atkins, Biggins, Dungworth, Maguire.

Luton: Findlay; Stephens, Donaghy, Grealish, Saxby, Price, Hill, West, Stein, Hatton, Moss.

WATFORD (1) 2 (Blissett, Bolton pen) NOTTS CO (1) 1 (O'Brien) 12,023 Watford: Steele; Henderson, Harrison, Booth, Sims, Bolton, Pollard, Mercer, Blissett, Train,

Notts Co: Avramovic; Richards, O'Brien, Benjamin, Stubbs (Christie), Blockley, McCulloch, Masson, Hooks, Hunt, Mair.

WREXHAM (0) 1 (McNeil) SWANSEA (0) 0

Wrexham: Davies; Darracott, Dwyer, Davis, Jones, Hill, Fox, Sutton, McNeil, Cartwright,

10.651

Swansea: Letheran; Attley, Rushbury, Phillips, Stevenson, Charles, Giles, Mahoney, James, Waddle, Callaghan.

Third Division

BARNSLEY (1) 1 (Clarke) SOUTHEND (0) 2 (Parker, Franklin)

Barnsley: Springett; Flavell, Collins, Glavin, Hunter, McCarthy, Pugh, Clarke, Lester (Riley), Banks, Aylott.

Southend: Cawston; Dudley, Moody, Hadley, Stead, Otulakowski, Nelson (Franklin), Pountney, Parker, Morris.

BURY (1) 2 (Johnson, Madden) CHESTERFIELD (0) 0

Bury: Forrest; Ritson, Halford, Waldron, Howard, Whitehead, Mullen, Wilson, Johnson, Madden, Hilton.

Chesterfield: Tingay; Tartt, O'Neill, Ridley, Green, Kowalski, Birch, Moss, Walker, Salmons, Crawford.

CARLISLE (1) 3 (Bannon, Staniforth 2) BRENTFORD (0) 1 (Holmes L) 4,272 Carlisle: Swinburne; Hoolickin, Winstanley, MacDonald, Ludlam, Parker, McVitie, Bonny-man, Bannon, Hamilton, Staniforth.

Brentford: Bond; Shrubb (Holmes B), Tucker, McNichol, Kruse, Fraser, Carlton, Fear, Smith, Holmes (L), Phillips.



Micky Droy scores Chelsea's first goal against Preston at Stamford Bridge.

CHESTER (1) 2 (Rush, Phillips) SHEFF. WED. (1) 2 (Wylde, Curran)

Chester: Millington; Raynor, Walker, Storton, Cottam, Jeffries, Sutcliffe, Jones, Rush, Phillips, Henderson.

Sheff. Wed.: Bolder; Blackhall, Grant, Pickering, Smith, Hornsby, Wylde, Porterfield (Johnson), Mellor, King, Curran.

EXETER (0) 1 (Hatch) ROTHERHAM (0) 1 (Giles o.g.)

Exeter: Main; Mitchell, Hatch, Hore, Giles, Roberts (L), Neville, Pearson, Rogers (R), Delve, Pullar.

Rotherham: Mountford; Forrest, Breckin, Rhodes, Stancliffe, Green, Finney, McEwan, Gwyther, Fern, Nix.

GILLINGHAM (0) 0

SWINDON (0) 0 Gillingham: Hillyard; White, Barker, Overton, Weatherly, Crabbe, Hughes, Bruce, Price, Westwood (Richardson), Funnell.

Swindon: Allen; Lewis, Ford, McHale, Carter, Stroud, Miller, Kamara, Rowland, Mayes, Wil-

HULL (0) 1 (Hawker)

WIMBLEDON (0) 1 (Cork) Hull: Blackburn; Nisbet, DeVries, Haigh, Dobson, Hawker, Roberts, Moss, Edwards, Bannister, Farley.

Wimbledon: Goddard; Briley, Jones, Galliers, Bowgett, Downes, Dziadulewicz, Parsons, Leslie, Cork, Lewington.

MANSFIELD (0) 1 (Austin) BLACKPOOL (0) 1 (Hockaday) 4,324 Mansfield: Arnold; Thompson, Wood, Hamilton, Bird, McClelland, Lathan, Taylor, Austin,

Mann, Allen.

Blackpool: Hesford; Gardner, Pashley,
McEwan, Malone, Hockaday, Doyle, Spence,
Kellow, Weston, Harrison.

MILLWALL (0) 1 (Mehmet)

COLCHESTER (2) 2 (Lee, Foley) 7,563 Miliwall: Jackson; Donaldson, Kinsella, Chatterton, Tagg, Blyth, Towner, Seasman, Mehmet, Lyons, Mitchell.

Colchester: Walker; Cook, Packer, Leslie, Wright, Dowman, Hodge, Gough (Rowles), Foley, Lee, Allinson.

OXFORD (0) 0 GRIMSBY (1) 1 (Kilmore) 3.361 Oxford: Burton; Doyle, Fogg, Briggs, Stott, Brock, Graydon, Duncan, White, Cooke, Hodgson.

Grimsby: Batch; Stone, Moore (K), Waters, Wigginton, Crombie, Brolly, Kilmore, Drinkell (Liddell), Mitchell, Cumming.

READING (1) 1 (Kearns) BLACKBURN (0) 1 (Crawford) 5,790 Reading: Death; Hetzke, White, Bowman, Shipperley, Moreline, Kearney, Sanchez, Heale, Kearns, Joslyn.

Blackburn: Arnold; Kendall, Branagan, Metcalfe, Keeley, Fazackerley, Brotherston, Parkes, Craig, McKenzie, Crawford.

SHEFF. UTD. (2) 3 (Speight, Sabella, Bourne pen.)

PLYMOUTH (1) 2 (Hodges, Randell)

Sheff. Utd.: Conroy; Cutbush, Tibbott, Ken-worthy, McPhail, Matthews, Garner, Bourne, Butlin, Speight, Sabella.

Plymouth: Crudgington; James, Harrison, Randell, Foster, Phillipson-Masters, Hodges, Cooper, Sims, Bason, Graves.

Fourth Division

BOURNEMOUTH (0) 0 PETERBOROUGH (0) 0

Bournemouth: Allen; Cunningham, Ferns, Impey, Townsend, Chambers, Holder, Mac-Dougall, Butler, Evanson, Miller.

Peterborough: Waugh; Carmichael, Phillips, Sharkey, Slough, Foster, Quow, Kellock, Cliss, Parkinson, Syrett.

BRADFORD C (0) 0 WALSALL (1) 1 (Penn) Bradford C: Smith; Podd, Watson, Wood, Baines, Cooper, Martinez, Dolan, Staniforth, McNiven, Hutchins.

Walsall: Green; Macken, Caswell, Sbragia, Serella, Paul, Penn, Waddington (Williams), McDonough, Buckley, Broadhurst.

DONCASTER (1) 1 (Nimmo) ALDERSHOT (1) 1 (Needham) Doncaster: Peacock; Russell, Snodin, Lister, Lally (Flanagan), Bradley, Pugh, Nimmo, War-

boys, Lewis, Bentley. Aldershot: Johnson; Scott, Wooler, Dixon, Bennett, Jopling, Crosby, Brodie, French, Needham, McGregor.

HUDDERSFIELD (0) 0 HEREFORD (1) 1 (White) Huddersfield: Starling; Brown, Robinson, Stanton, Sutton, Hanvey (Purdie), Laverick, Hart,

Fletcher, Robins, Cowling.

Hereford: Hughes; Price, Burrows, Layton,
Marshall, Feeley, Cunningham, Spiring,
McGrellis, White, Phillips.

NEWPORT (1) 4 Lowndes 2, Oakes, DARLINGTON (0) 0

Newport: Dowler; Walden, Relish, Bruton (D), Oakes, Bailey, Vaughan, Lowndes, Tynan, Aldridge (Bruton M), Warriner.

Darlington: Owers; Nattress, Cochrane, Ball. Craig, Smith, McLean, Charlton, Stalker, Taylor (Walsh), Ellis.

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E-UPS...RESULTS...SCORER

PORTSMOUTH (1) 3 (Brisley, Garwood, l sidlaw

HALIFAX (0) 1 (Firth) 14,087 Portsmouth: Mellor; Ellis, Viney, Brisley, Aizlewood, Davey, Garwood, Laidlaw, Hemmer-

man, Bryant, Rogers. Halifax: Kilner; Dunleavy, Hutt, Evans, Harris, Goodman (Dryhurst), Firth, Kennedy, Burke, Smith, Stafford,

WIGAN (0) 0 NORTHAMPTON (0) 0 6.158 Wigan: Brown; Fretwell, Hinnigan, Gore, Methven, Davids, Corrigan, Wright, Houghton,

Quinn, Urquhart.
Northampton: Poole; Walker, Sandercock,
Byatt, Waldock (Sandy), Farrington, Denyer,
Saunders, O'Donoghue, Farmer, McCaffary.

YORK (2) 5 (Lorimer 2, Clements, Ran-

York: (2) 5 (Cormer 2, Clements, Randall, McDonald)
PORT VALE (1) 1 (Chamberlain N) 2,402
York: Neenan; Kay, Harrison, Ford (Bryne), Clements, James, Randall, Lorimer, Eccles,

McDonald, Wellings.

Port Vale: Dance, Keenan, Griffiths, Leese, Delgado, Beach, Bromage, Farrell (Chamberlain M), Wright, Jones, Chamberlain N.

Scottish League Cup

(SEMI-FINAL)

ABERDEEN (2) 2 (McGhee, Strachan

pen) MORTON (0) 1 (Ritchie pen) Aberdeen: Clark; Kennedy, Rougvie, McLeish, Garner, Miller, Strachan, Archibald, McGhee,

McMaster, Scanlon.
Morton: Baines; Hayes, Holmes, Anderson,
McLaughlin, Orr, McNeill (Tolmer), Miller
(Scott), Thomson, Hutchinson, Ritchie.



SCOTTISH PREMIER

HIBS (2) 2 (McLeod pen, Whittaker o.g.) PARTICK (0) 1 (O'Hara) 20,622 Hibs: McArthur; Brazil, Duncan, Rae, Paterson, McNamara, Callachan, MacLeod, Hutchinson, Higgins (Murray), Best.

Partick: Rough; McKinnon (Melrose), Whit-taker, Campbell, Anderson, O'Hara, Park, Doylé, Jardine, McAdam, McDonald.

RANGERS (1) 2 (Johnstone, Russell) KILMARNOCK (1) 1 (Houston) 15,0 Rangers: McCloy; Jardine, Dawson, Forsyth (T), Jackson, Stevens, McLean, Russell, Johnstone, MacDonald (A), MacDonald (J). Kilmarnock: McCulloch; Cockburn, Robertson, Clark, Clarke, McDicken, Houston (Street), Maxwell, Cairney (Bourke), Mauchlen, Gibson.

MIRREN (1) 2 (Somner pen, McDougall) CELTIC (0) 1 (McDonald) St. Mirren: Thomson; Young, Munro, Richardson, Fulton, Copland, Bone, Stark, Somner, Weir, McDougall.

Celtic: Latchford; Sneddon, McGrain, Aitken, McAdam, MacLeod, Provan, Sullivan, Edvaldsson (Lennox), Conroy (McDonald), McCluskey.

Scottish First

ARBROATH (0) 1 (Kidd) BERWICK (0) 1 (Tait) 1.053

AYR (2) 3 (McSherry, Frye, Connor) **RAITH (0) 0**

CLYDE (1) 2 (Hood, McCabe) HEARTS (0) 2 (Fraser, O'Connor) 1.500

DUMBARTON (1) 1 (Gallagher B pen) MOTHERWELL (0) 1 (McLaughlin) 2,000

DUNFERMLINE (0) 1 (Bowie) AIRDRIE (0) 0

HAMILTON (0) 1 (McGrogan) STIRLING (1) 1 (Kennedy A) 1.300

ST. JOHNSTONE (0) 0 CLYDEBANK (0) 1 (Miller) 2,163

Scottish Second

ALLOA (0) 0 FORFAR (1) 3 (Mitchell, Rae pen, 500

BRECHIN (3) 3 (Campbell R, Henderson, Campbell I, pen) Q o S (0) 0

E. FIFE (0) 1 (Scott) MONTROSE (1) 1 (Taylor)

FALKIRK (1) 2 (Leetion, P. 2) MEADOWBANK (0) 2 (Downie, Leetion 1,800

STENHOUSEMUIR (1) 1 (Murray) ALBION (2) 3 (Coyle, Franchetti pen, 400 Campbell)

E. STIRLING (1) 2 (Blair, Grant pen) 600

IRISH LEAGUE

ARDS (1) 1 (Cullen (pen))
LINFIELD (1) 1 (Rafferty)
Ards: McCarren, Welker, Cromie, Cullen,
MeCoy, Gibson, Welsh (Reid), Martin, Patterson, Mowat, Maxwell.

Linfield: Dunlop; Fraser, Hayes, Garrett, Raf-ferty, McKeown, Murray, McKee, McGaughey, Feeney, Anderson.

CLIFTONVILLE (0) 1 (McCusker) CRUSADERS (0) 0

Cliftonville: Johnson; McGuicken, Largey, Flanagan, Quinn, McCurry, McCusker, Bell, Erwin (Brown), O'Connor, Holden. Crusaders: McDonald; Strain, Gorman,

Mulhall, Gillespie, McPolin, Kennedy (Rice), Patterson, Malone, Curry, McAteer.

DISTILLERY (0) 1 (Magee)
COLERAINE (3) 5 (Platt 3, Dickson 2)
Distillery: Moore; Ferris, McGreevy, Keatley,
Greer, McAuley, White, Magee, Richardson, McMinn, Falloon (Shiels).

Coleraine: Magee; McDowell (R), McNutt, McCandless, Hutton, McDowell (S), Foregrave, Beckett, Platt, Dickson, Moffatt.

GLENTORAN (0) 2 (Johnson, Walsh (pen)) BALLYMENA UTD (0) 0

Glentoran: Matthews; McCreery (Rab), Leslie, Walsh, Porter, Gracey, Irbine, McCreery (Ron),

Blackledge, Manley (Moore), Jameson.
Ballymena Utd: White; Beattie, Fox, McCullogh, Jackson, Sloan, Mullan, Tully (McCall), McQuiston, Malone, Jess.

LARNE (0) 0 GLENAVON (1) 1 (Armstrong)

Larme: Coburn; Wilton, Cleland, Graham, Carland, McManus, Hardy, Clarke, Devine, McAuley, McKinley (Galway).

Glanavon: McCullogh; Davey, Quinn, Stitt, Clarke, McGuigan, Sheppard, Neill, Armstrong, Smith, Higgins.

PORTADOWN (2) 3 (Campbell 2, Graham)

BANGOR (1) 2 (Barrett, McKimm) Portadown: McCollum; Edgar, Donegan, Wilson (Graham), Kilburn, Cleary, Gordon, Gardiner, Alexander, Campbell, Smyth. Bangor: Irwin; Feeney, McKimm, Dickenson (Rollins), Harrison, Cummings, Le McLaughlin, Barrett, McCoubrey, Duddy.

Sunday, December 2

League of Ireland

ATHLONE TOWN (1) 4 (Wyse, Salmon, Clarke, Devlin)
SHAMROCK ROVERS (0) 1 (Campbell)

Athlone Town: Smyth; Feniuk, Whelan, Fullam, Smith, O'Connor (P), Shelley, Clarke, Devlin, Salmon, Wyse (O'Connor (M)).

Shamrock Rovers: O'Neill; Mulligan, Synnott, O'Leary, Burke, Meagan (Kenny), Gannor Gaffney, Campbell, Treacy (Byrne), Buckley.

BOHEMIANS (1) 1 (Byrne) THURLES TOWN (0) 0

Bohemians: Davis; Gregg, Brady, Nolan, Burke, Whelan, Lawless, McCormack, Cowhie, Byrne, Eviston (Joyce).

Thurles Town: Dunne; Doran, McQuaid (Seymour), O'Brien, Tierney, Heffernan, Con-way, Lawson, Steedman, Humphries (Jenkins),

CORK UNITED (1) 4 (Madden 2, Allen, Finnegan)
SHELBOURNE (2) 3 (Delamere 2, Don-

nelly)

Cork Utd: Ludzic; Brohan, Donovan, Keane, Lane, Allen, Finnegan, Punch, Murphy, Madden, Morley (Cuthbert).

Shelbourne: Delahunty; Carney, Boyle, Last, Moody, McMahon, Donnelly (Murphy), O'Neill, Delamere, Nugent, Cleary (Ryan).

DROGHEDA UNITED (0) 0

GALWAY ROVERS (0) 0 Drogheda Utd: Forrestal; Campbell, Cameron, Byrne, Ferguson, Freeney, Leech, Martin, Tuite, Clarke, Carthy.

Galway Rovers; Lally; Herrick, McDaid, Sheehan, Murphy Tom, Nolan, Quinlivan (Mur-phy Tony), Cooke, Cassidy, Collins, Mannion.

HOME FARM (0) 1 (McCluskey) DUNDALK (0) 1 (Flanagan (pen))

Home Farm: Finnerty; Maher, Kelly, Breslin, Brady (Thomas), Williams, Craig, King, O'Neill, Neville (Cervi), McCluskey. Dundalk: Blackmore; McConville, Lawlor Mar-

tin, Keely, Dunning, Flanagan, Daly, Devine, Lawlor Mick, Byrne, Crawley.

LIMERICK UNITED (0) 1 (Morris)

WATERFORD (0) 1 (Finucane) Limerick Utd: Fitzpatrick; Ryan, O'Mahony, Storan, Fitzgerald, Nolan, Hand, Walsh, Morris, Kennedy, Duggan.

Waterford: Thomas; O'Mahony, Finucane, Jackson, Gardiner, Madigan, Carey, McCarthy, Murray, Kirk, Keane (Coady).

SLIGO ROVERS (0) 1 (Patton) FINN HARPS (0) 0

Sligo Rovers; Patterson; Fielding, O'Doherty (D), Patton, Rutherford, Sheridan, Kavanagh (McLouglin), Fagan, Bradley, O'Doherty (G), Hulmes

Finn Harps: McDermott; Ferry, Monagle, McDowell, Sheridan, Duffy, Logan, McCool, Collins, Minnock, McGroarty.

UCD (0) 1 (McGovern) ST PATRICK'S ATH. (1) 1 (Carthy) UCD: McCabe; Cowhie, Doyle, McDonnell, Fox, McGovern, Scully (O'Riordan), Dignam, Cassidy, Drury (Murphy), Moran.
St Pat's Ath: O'Brien; Higgins, Daly (Magee), Kavanagh, Doyle, Malione, Browning, Carthy (O'Donnell), Jameson, Munnelly, Kirwan.

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK.

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ANSWERS:-

ACROSS:— (1) Cats. (3) Tait. (9) Strap. (11) Oh. (13) Mick. (15) Ale. (16) Powell. (17) Wild. (18) No. (19) Selhurst. (24) As. (26) Skirt. (27) Nine. (29) Exe. (30) We. (31) Sag. (33) Void. (35) One. (36) Osborne. (39) Slater. DOWN:— (1) Coop. (2) To. (4) Ask. (5) It. (6) Train. (7) Sped. (8) All. (10) Alloa. (12) Home. (13) Mesh. (14) Clarke. (19) Sansom. (20) Lunges. (21) Us. (22) Six. (23) Trevor. (25) Sweden. (28) Ien. (30) Win. (32) Boa. (34) Or. (37) St. (38) Be. Jumbled Name: STEVE McCALL.



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This week's Star Letter comes from Jenny Winterbottom of Springhead, Oldham, who wins our Special Prize of £5. She writes:

ARE TRIBUNALS FAIR?

A few weeks ago you carried an article on Alan Young (right), the Leicester City striker, who was transferred from Oldham Athletic during the close-season.

Using his new Freedom of Contract rights, Alan's fee had to be decided by the Independent Tribunal. They set his fee at £250,000,

which was hotly disputed by Old-ham, who claimed £450,000. And as Jock Wallace, the Leices-ter manager claimed, he could now get three times what he paid for Young.

Surely this proves Oldham were right in their valuation of the player? Also, to support Oldham's view, Young is now in the Scot-

land squad.

I believe the present system of fixing transfer fees by tribunals is



totally inadequate. After all, it's the smaller clubs who depend on the income of fees and it's the bigger clubs who benefit most from this system.

Can readers tell me of any instances where they feel the tribunal have over-valued players?

Only Hampden

A Ithough I admire the F.A. and the S.F.A. for taking moves to stop violence at England/Scotland games, I don't think they have solved the problem.

Scotland fans will still travel to Wembley in 1981 in their tens of them obtain their tickets in England.

The only way to stop the vio-lence is to play at Hampden each year, where there is never any

ANDREW BIRD, WORCESTER

I'd like to disagree, but I can't.

Easy?

EVEN though I admire the coaching of Arsenal's Don Howe, I was surprised at his comments before the F.A. Cup Third Round.

When asked for his favourites, Howe replied: "Liverpool . . . as they're being given everything on a plate with League Cup draws at home and now Grimsby at Anfield."

Come now, Mr. Howe! If Grimsby, a mere Third Division side, are such an easy task for

Liverpool, then why weren't Swindon such easy opponents for Arsenal in the League Cup?

HARTLEPOOL.

Maybe Howe doesn't rate Arsenal in Liverpool's class?

Case for Jimmy

OW long is Jimmy Case going to be denied an England place? Surely he has proved his worth, especially against foreign opposition where his scoring record is one of the best at the club.

Jimmy works non-stop for 90 minutes, forever running and helping his team-mates.

agree Ron Greenwood has a strong and skilful England squad, but I still feel Jimmy deserves a

> **CLAIRE MURRAY** BEESTON.

 The way Liverpool have been playing Greenwood must be tempted to substitute Watson for Han-Wilkins for Souness and Keegan for Dalglish and ask the F.A. to switch from Wembley to Anfield!

Pen-pal

'M a 16-year-old schoolgirl and I'd like to write to anyone in England who wants to write to me. My favourite team is Manchester United.

ANGELLA LYMBERIS, 9, JOANNA STREET, SOUTH PENRITH, N.S.W. 2750, AUSTRALIA.





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DAVID PLEAT

F some people were in doubt about the location of Luton a few months ago their curiosity has been more than satisfied on two fronts.

The pop group Cats U.K. started tall by doing more than any tourist guide to publicise the Bedfordshire town with the smash-hit tune "Luton Airport", and now the local football team has taken over to bring even greater prestige over a longer period with their outstanding performances in the Second Division.

Division.

Luton is no longer a dot on the atlas just off the M1 Motorway.
In leaping to dizzy heights in the promotion race, the Kenilworth Road club has stolen much of the kudos this season from Watford, their neighbours and rivals, who have tasted champagne for more than two years under the

have tasted champagne for more than two years under the Taylor-John regime.
Straight-talking David Pleat, Luton's manager, makes no bones about the quality of players at his disposal and the club's ambitions to challenge Newcastle, Sunderland, Chelsea and other traditionally more illustrious rivals. traditionally more illustrious rivals for promotion to the First Division.

3

Now Luton Town re smash hit

"We can go all the way to the First, hopefully this season, but if not, then next, or the season after," asserts Pleat. "I reckon I would need to sign

only one more player in the right position to secure a place in the First Division."

Pleat pulls no punches either in searching for reasons for Luton's rampant success this season.

"Management, good management. They are our key men," he says. "We have given the players a platform on which to perform their skills and they are taking advantage of their opportunities.

Loyalty

"We have bought the right players and our squad has the right attitude. I have players of character, with the same loyalty and refreshing attitude portrayed by John Hollins of Arsenal. John would give everything for any club he played for.

"I had a player here last season who played when he wanted to.
He would often let me down. He is
no longer on our books."
Luton's success is analysed in
simple terms. They score lots of
goals — and concede few.

goals — and concede rew,
If good teams demand good
goalkeepers then Luton have a star
in 6ft 1ins Jake Findlay. His 14
stone frame has been as
prominent in Luton's penalty-area
this season as that of Clemence, at
Liverpool, or Shilton, at

Nottingham Forest.

Pleat was so enamoured with Jake's performance before Christmas that he wrote to Jock Stein suggesting his goalkeeper was worthy of a Scottish cap. The Luton boss has received no reply.

"Not even an Not even an acknowledgement," mutters Pleat. "I tell you Findlay is as good as any goalkeeper available to Scotland, probably better. He commands his area, is good on crosses, brave and difficult to fault. You could push this boy all the

way." Pleat also advocates international recognition for his star winger David Moss, who can dribble a football with much the

dribble a football with much the same dexterity as the legendary Tom Finney — and score goals. He had scored 15 League and Cup goals by January 1st and encourages Pleat to suggest his winger is more of a match-winner than Peter Barnes.

Shrewd dealings in the transfer market have been a key factor. The

market have been a key factor. The coffers at Kenilworth Road were rattled to buy Tony Grealish from Orient, the transfer tribunal settling on a figure of £150,000 last summer, and Pleat spent a further £200,000 on Mansfield's star defender Mick Saxby. More recently he has risked £150,000 on Steve White, a player with fewer than 50 League appearances with Bristol Rovers, but a star in the making, according to Luton's

manager.
"I have learned some hard

lessons about transfers," Pleat explains. "I have been at Luton eight years in one capacity or other and in the early days saw the problems caused by spending vast sums on ageing players. They

sums on ageing players. They
won't buy you success.
"Birmingham have done it. But
where will they be next year?
Stoke have bought older players
with a short-term success rate.
"Saxby is 20, Grealish is 21,
Ricky Hill is 20, Findlay is an 'old
man' at 24."

Luton attract regular home gates of 11,000 and the behaviour of their fans, both at home and away, has on the whole been exemplary. Perhaps the advice of the club's Chief Executive and General Manager John Smith at the start of the season still rumbles around

the ground.
He said: "My message for people who want to cause trouble is — stay away."
Alcohol has been banned to

visiting supporters on the Kenilworth Road terraces highlighting Luton's refreshing approach to the problem of cleaning-up a game damaged severely in the 1970's by loutish behaviour.

Others please note.

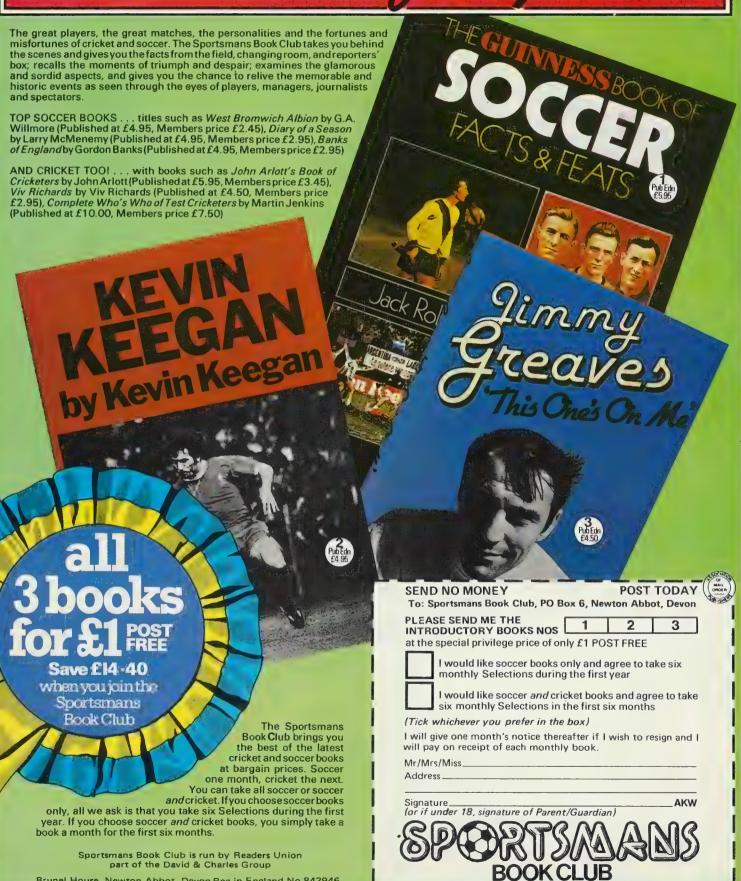




BACK HOW lieft to right; Andrew Pearson, Seamus Meath, I Warriott, Gerry Heals, Clive Goodyser, Warrie Ternier, Gery St. Alan Ollis.

reind Rows: Cavid Coates, mai Danagny, mark Aizlawoos, J Findlay, Graham Jones, Alan Judge, Kirk Stephens, Brian Stein, J Moore. SECOND ROW: Lii Fuccillo, Ricky Hilf, Mike Saxby, Ken Gutterl

FRONT ROW: Alan Cosby, Bobby Johnson, Jan Plotrowski, Murphy, Frankis Bunn, Beb Walker, Warryn Cengsast, John John Wood, Nail Madden, Ray Brammer.



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S a club manager with Celtic John Stein certainly had the Midas touch. Everything turned to gold as his revolutionary tactics stood soccer on its head. Celtic were the first British team to win the European Cup, in 1967, while they broke record after record on

they broke record after record on the domestic scene.
Sadly for Stein, that success has not followed the Big Man into the international arena. Scotland lost their last slender chance of reaching the European Championship Finals in Italy when they lost 2-0 to Belgium in Bussels. It was a crupply game for Brussels. It was a crunch game for the Scots, but the players couldn't pass the test when the pressure was on. It was Stein's tenth match



OCCER REVO



John Wark (right) is one of several Scotland players struggling to make an impact

in charge of the national team and his 11th, the return with Belgium, went no better. Scotland lost 3-1 at Hampden Park.

at Hampden Park.
The statistics make unhappy reading. Scotland have won only three times under Stein; against the hardly top-rate opposition of Norway (twice) and Northern Ireland. And two of those games were by the odd goal at Hampden! Scotland have lost six, against Portugal, Wales, England, Argentina and Belgium (twice), with home draws against Peru and Austria. Those are not statistics to send Scotlish fans into raptures, especially as the goal-tally is For especially as the goal-tally is For 13, Against 19, And now, the unspeakable is happening — Scottish supporters are starting to have doubts about Stein, about

whom it was widely said "if he

whom it was widely said "if he can't do the job, no one can."
To be fair, Stein has hardly had the opportunity to field a full-strength side, with players such as Andy Gray, Gordon McQueen, Archie Gemmill, Joe Jordan and Kenny Burns being absent for one reason or another. That's a lot of talent to leave That's a lot of talent to leave behind, although Stein does not look for excuses

Even so, questions are being asked and the answers are hard to come by. Stein has always relished a challenge and few managers face a bigger challenge right now than the Scotland boss.

In 1978, Scotland were riding high and on their way to Argentina. Since that World Cup disaster, Scotland have been on

the crest of a slump, as Billy Connolly might say, and despite experiments and changes, Stein seems no nearer finding a winning team than he was when he took

over.
So what's wrong with Scotland?
And what must be done to restore national pride? When Scotland fans jeer the side at Hampden, something must be very wrong. First, soccer seems to go in cycles and Scotland had a marvellous run in the 70's, reaching two World Cups and giving us some of Europe's most outstanding players, such as Danny McGrain, Kenny Dalglish and Billy Bremner. Much to the Scots' pleasure, their high coincided with England's low, but now the situation is being reversed. reversed

Scotland don't have a great goalkeeper, so vital to a top team Enough has been said about Alan Rough, who is a good club goalkeeper but simply not international class

The injury to Danny McGrain robbed Scotland of their only undeniable world-class player and understandably, his lengthy absence from the game has posed problems

Scotland haven't had a leader like Bremner since the Leeds man dropped out of the international dropped out of the international team. Bremner was a fighter, a player to inspire those around him. The fact that Scotland have had so many captains since Bremner is an indication of how difficult they've found it to replace him.

Too many players have failed to show their club form for Scotland, although it is ironic that Kenny Dalglish has been playing superbly (at last) for his country when so

many around him haven't.
Scotland must, once and for all, forget their England complex and place no more importance on beating the 'Auld Enemy' than anyone else. They must look at their own team and not worry

their own team and not worry about others.

The Scottish Press has too often been irresponsible. "Fans with typewriters" is a popular description of Scottish journalists, who have let their hysteria get the better of them. They have made the fans believe their side is better than it really is, although the message does seem to have been learnt now. learnt now.

A few years ago, Scotland had many top-class players with Archie Gemmill, Lou Macari and others not able to get regular games. Stein doesn't have such a luxury and his midfield of John Wark. Eamonn Bannon and Roy Aitken for the second Belgium match was woefully inept.

Persist

Still, it is with the youngsters that Stein must persist in building a new Scotland team. Some of the older players must be retained.

Stein must hope Andy Gray can, at last, make an international comeback

The 70's were, generally speaking, good for Scotland. The 80's start with a lot of question marks. And the biggest, despite his stature, is now over Stein Will he, like Don Revie, prove to be a manager who couldn't make

the jump to international level?
And will his recently appointed assistant, Jim McLean of Dundee United, be given the top job sooner than many imagined?

ETER Suddaby can't thank

PETER Suddaby can't thank Blackpool managar Stan Ternant enough — for dropping him! For when Suddaby moved into the reserves to make way for Jackie Ashurst, Brighton managar Alan Mullery couldn't move quick enough to snap up the commanding centre-half "Looking back, I suppose it was a blessing in disquise," said Suddaby. "My career wasn't going anywhere, and a move to the First Division was the perfect remedy." Suddaby's arrival at the Goldstone Ground had an immediate impact on Brighton's previously unhappy first season at the top In his first game he helped Brighton end Nottingham Forest's 51-game unbeaten home League record, and successive victories during the Christmas period against Wolves and Crystal Palace took the club out of the bottom three for the first time this season.

Winner

"I tried getting Peter last season to help our promotion bid." Mullery explained. "He's a tramendous winner and is just the sort of player we needed.
"But Bob Stokoe wouldn't let him go which is why I was delighted when he suddenly became available in November."

Suddaby admits that he has always been impressed with Brighton's potential, and wanted to play in the First Division since Blackpool lost their place in the top flight. top flight
"Obviously it wasn't easy to

adjust after playing two games in the reserves and I was sad about leaving Blackpool. But it was made

the reserves and I was sad about leaving Blackpool. But it was made clear to me that I was fourth in line for the centre-half position, so I made up my mind to move if the opportunity arose.

"Coming to Brighton cost me a testimonial." Suddaby continued, "but this didn't mean as much to me as Blackpool thought it might.

"I wanted a challenge and still felt I had something to offer which is why it didn't worry me joining a struggling club. There's still plenty of time for Brighton to move out of trouble which is what I think will happen as there's a superb spirit in the club," Suddaby commented. Suddaby admits that life in the Third Division had proved hard for Blackpool. "The boardroom troubles inevitably rubbed off on the players and gave the club an unsettled atmosphere.

"The trouble is that neither the players nor the public have come to terms with the fact that Blackpool are a Third Division club,"

Suddaby pointed out.

"When we were relegated it was only through a series of freak results which is why last season was something of a settling-in

"Even though there aren't many medals in the club's cupboard there's a lot of tradition and people

still talk of the team in the 50's."
Suddaby modestly refused to accept that his move was a significant factor in Brighton taking what could prove to be ten crucial points out of 14 in their battle for First Division survival.

"Forest are a very good side, but we defended well against them and had that little bit of luck we needed. But I thought that everyone in the Brighton side buckled down and gave everything

Suddaby's fun loving approach to life, which makes it hard to believe that he became a bookworm to study for a University honours degree, not only explains his long stay at Bloomfield Road

but also why he bears no bitter-ness towards his former club.

"I desperately hope they do well as I had such happy memories but I would like to think they'll miss me." he added.

"Certainly things are beginning to click at Brighton, and I'm sure

we will survive this season.

"Alan Mullery has given me a chance to prove myself in the best League in the world, and I certainly do not intend to let him down now."





Tommy Caton (left) heads clear for City in the 0-0 draw against Arsenal at Highbury this season.

He figured that he would have a better chance of an early first team call at Maine Road and he says: "I'm delighted that I have been proved right.

"I really didn't expect to get my chance quite so soon but when Malcolm Allison took me on the pre-season tour of Belgium, I knew I had to be in the reckoning."

Caton played in another pre-season tournament in Scotland and did well enough to get the number five shirt for the opening League game against Crystal Palace.

He says: "I was pretty nervous before that game but everything went well and it got me off to a good start."

Flattered

Despite some disappointing results early in the season, the youngster kept his place and is flattered by the people who predict that he'll be an England star.

His performances have been so outstanding at times that the City fans have even forgotten their disappointment at losing England centre-half Dave Watson.

Caton says, he didn't feel any pressure during that bad spell. "I was one of several new players in the team so I didn't think that there was any blame attached to me."

Caton isn't silly enough, though, to believe that the number five , shirt is now his for keeps.

EARLY CALL FOR £20-A-WEEK CATON

TOMMY Caton, Manchester City's teenage centre-half, used to stand on the Liverpool Kop as a kid.

And it's a Liverpool star striker Kenny Dalglish — who has given him his toughest 90 minutes as a First Division player.

Caton was in the City side thrashed 4-0 by Liverpool at Maine Road in October and he says: "Kenny Dalglish is by far the best player I've marked.

"I say marked, but I actually found it hard to even get near him. His speed, his turning, and his quickness of thought were the best I've encountered. He knew where the ball was going before he got it.

"The whole Liverpool team were different class and it's a lesson I won't forcet."

Caton could easily have joined the Anfield club when he left school but he didn't fancy waiting in the reserves for years.

Kenny Dalglish gave Caton a valuable lesson when Liverpool were at Maine Road and won 4-0.



"I regard myself as still fighting for my place. But I'm enjoying myself and I'm happy with the way things have gone so far."

For his first ten games as a City first teamer, Caton was still an apprentice picking up less than £20 a week.

But when he reached his 17th birthday in October, he picked up a hefty pay rise, and a five year contract.

Allison said: "it's the longest contract I've ever given to a 17-year-old and I wouldn't be at all surprised if it is the longest in football history for someone so young."

Caton's early call to the first team meant that he went virtually straight from his school team to the First Division.

"It's a tremendous difference, obviously, both physically and in the pace of the game. But no player has tried to take advantage of my being young and inexperienced."

"I think I have done reasonably well so far in my first season in the big time. I just hope I can keep it up and help City to be successful."

New Lives for Old Stars



TERRY DYSON

Torenorseponducidonsxenorpenorseereneit

THE peak of physical fitness which helped Terry Dyson to a host of honours with Tottenham in the 1960's is helping him in his new career, as P.E. teacher at Hampstead school.

him in his new career, as P.E. teacher at Hampstead school. It is an occupation he has been carrying out for the past seven years after finishing his career as a part-time player in 1972.

"The idea was suggested to me by a friend, and I took a course and qualified as a football and cricket instructor," Dyson explained.

"I am enjoying it very much, and also find time to carry out my duties as assistant-manager of Isthmian League Dagen-

His connections with Dagenham also help him to keep in touch with his former Spurs team-mate Cliff Jones, whose son Steve is following in father's footsteps on the wing

father's footsteps on the wing for Dyson's team.

"I have a soft spot for Spurs, and I feel it is unfair that they are still compared to our great double-winning side of 1961. They have got to do it their own way now, and it will take a little time before they are ready to challenge for the League title again.

"I have so many great memories of my ten years at White Hart Lane. The greatest must be scoring in the 1961 F.A. Cup Final against Leicester to secure the 'double' and then scoring two against Atletico Madrid in our 5-1 European Cup-Winners' Cup Final victory two years later.

two years later.

"The game today lacks personality players. Jimmy Greaves, George Best and Bobby Charlton could all put 10,000 on a gate, but sadly there is no one of that calibre around today."

LAURIE'S **POOR RATING**

IT'S interesting to note that, according to the weekly match-ratings given in the Spanish sporting Press, the legions of imported players are giving poor results this season. As the League halted for a Christmas break, Real Sociedad goalkeeper Arconada headed the charts, followed by Betis defender

The top foreigner was Sporting Gijón's Argentinian winger Ferrero . . . in 26th place! Real Madrid's German midfielder Uli Stielike is 42nd. Kempes is 59th. And international stars such as Hans Krankl, Allan Simonsen and Laurie Cunningham are not even in the top hundred!

◆ A 15-year-old boy made his debut recently for Spanish First Division challengers Sporting Gijón. José Olaya (known as Eloy) made his appearance in a Spanish Cup game, and made his presence felt by heading a spectacular first goal in Sporting's 4-0 win.

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## **ARGENTINA'S** 1982 WORLD CUP

ARGENTINA manager César Luis Menotti has predictably sparked off a great deal of discussion by naming his prelimi-nary squad of 28 players for the country's defence of its world title in Spain in 1982.

defence of its world title in Spain in 1962. None of the players listed can be transferred outside Argentina during 1980. Of tourse, Menotti's list doesn't include any of the stars such as Kempes, Ardiles, Bertoni or Villa who are already 'in exile'. Here's the list: Fillol, Luque, Passarella (above), Ortiz and Ramon Diaz from River Plate; Baley, Villaverde, Fren, Bichini and Outes from Independiente; Tarantini, Oviedo, Ocaño, Bocanelli, Bravo and Valencia from Talleres; Olguin and Rinaldi from San Lorenzo; Caravelli and Maradona from Argentinos Juniors; Simón and Gallego from Newell's Old Boys; Barbas and Calderón from Rácing; Ischia and Escudero from Vélez Sarstield; Van Tuyne from Rosario Central; and Hernández from Estudiantes.

Studiantes.
Once again, Menotti has totally ignored the 'physical' players from Juan Carlos Lorenzo's Boca Juniors team, and has Lorenzo's Boca Juniors team, and has controversially included goalkeeper Héctor Baley (29) even though he's been dropped by Independiente and hasn't fully recovered from a cartilage operation. Menotti's worrying shortage of central strikers is also highlighted by the inclusion of Leopoldo Luque who, at 31 next May, isn't likely to be at his peak for the world title defence in 1982.

# **EUROPE'S 'UNKNOWN' GOALKING**

He's scored 500 goals at top level, averaging well over a goal-per-game. He's hit the net over 100 times for the national team. He's topped his country's goal-chart every year since 1973. He's broken every goalscoring record and been the highest-paid player in his country for five years. Back in 1974 he was rated at the then astronomical figure of

You'd think a player with this record would be known by soccer fans all over the world — yet in Britain he is virtually unknown. Fernando Morena (right) of Uruguay is his name

For me, scoring goals is like doing a crossword - a question of working out a way of putting the ball in the back of the net. My whole game is geared to doing just

Morena was signed for Madrid's unfashionable Rayo Vallecano last summer and has been scoring consistently since. The Uruguyan's story is a complicated one, though. "I was, how do you say, a 'god' in Uruguay and I was regularly

listed in the top six South American players. My former club, Peñarol, haven't played overseas much and the Uruguyan national team has played hardly any European opposition since 1974. What's more, the peak of my career coincided with a terrible slump in Uruguyan soccer, so I haven't had the international projection

"We played badly in the 1974 World Cup and Bolivia knocked us out of the 1978 competition. In my case, the big problem has been that the fans have always counted with my goals. If I failed to score I was bitterly criticised as if the team were just *me* and no one else. In this respect, it's been a pleasure to be in Spain, where there is less pressure on me.

'I've always wanted to play here. I've been trying to get away from Peñarol for years, but the transfer deals have all fallen through. You may remember Nottingham Forest were reported to be interested in me last year.

The nearest I came to a move was in 1974 when Real Madrid made a firm offer for me. At that time I was owned by two clubs Peñarol and River Plate of Argentina. Both of them wanted a fair chunk of cash to part with me. The total price worked out at £750,000 which was a lot of money five years ago.

"At 27, I was beginning to despair. The Uruguyan fans became too used to seeing me scoring and expected me to carry on breaking record after record. When I didn't, I was harshly

"I mean, back in 1975 I scored 34 goals in 21 games, an all-time record in Uruguay. The previous best was set in 1933. The following season I averaged 'only' one goal per game and people said I wasn't pulling my weight. I'm sure if a striker averaged a goal-a-game in England there wouldn't be any complaints!

My Peñarol contract expired in 1980, so they decided to sell me and accept £300,000 as they'd have received nothing at the end of my contract. Touch wood, things are going well for me in Spain.



| Fernand | o Morena's scoring | 9     |
|---------|--------------------|-------|
| Year    | Club               | Goals |
| 1969    | River Plate        | 3     |
| 1970    | River Plate        | 35    |
| 1971    | River Plate        | 23    |
| 1972    | River Plate        | 14    |
| 1973    | Peñarol            | 45    |
| 1974    | Peñarol            | 65    |
| 1975    | Peñarol            | 87    |
| 1976    | Peñarol            | 59    |
| 1977    | Peñarol'           | 58    |
| 1978    | Peñarol            | 76    |
| 1979    | Peñarol            | 19    |
| 1979    | Rayo Vallecano     | 16    |
|         | Total              | 500   |

(Includes League, Cup and International games plus Friendlies, up to press time.)



#### KEEPERS KEEPING THEIR FINGERS CROSSED

A FEW months ago I wrote about Winston DuBose, the Tampa Bay Rowdies goalkeeper who was mad keen to play in English soccer. The Du' is now a full American international and went some way towards realising his ambition last month when he began training with lowich Town.

Inonth when he began training with lpswich Town.

"I hope I can get the visa situation sorted out and that a club will come in for me," says Winston, one of the most engaging characters I've met in my travals.

in my travels
DuBose isn't alone at Portman
Road as Australian 'keeper Tony
Scanlon is also training with Ipswich Like DuBose, he has his fingers
crossed that he will eventually sign
for a club

Picture shows DuBose (left) and Scanlon after a recent training



After Tony Woodcock's second game for Cologne, coach Hennes Weisweiler told the Press. "He is exactly what we needed. Now we will win the Cham-nionship."

SPANISH First Division side Almería have fined their Argentinian striker Pavon £1,000 for 'indiscipline and lack

There are fears for the future of West German star Heinz Flohe. The 31-year-old midfielder of 1860 Munich broke a leg following a foul by MSV Duisburg's Steiner and apparently the crack was heard around the stadium.

# The Division that doesn't exist

A VERY strange news item appeared in the Brazilian Press, concerning Madureira, a team from Rio de Janeiro, and the English travel agency Strata Travel. This agency has been trying to arrange some Madureira games in Kuwait, under the condition that Madureira advertises a cigarette brand on their shirts. Strata Travel has told the Kuwaitis that Madureira is a team from the Brazilian First Division. First Division.

The first strange thing about the news is that Brazilian teams are not allowed to advertise companies or products on their

shirts.

The second strange thing is that there is no such thing as a First and Second Division in Brazil. Some local Leagues, such as the São Paulo League, may have it, but the system is not applied nationwide, nor does it exist in the Rio de Janeiro League.

As a rule of thumb, one could say that admittance to the Brazilian National Championship would identify the teams applied by In a hypothetical Brazilian First Division. It would be the largest First Division in the world, with 96 teams.

And Madureira is not one of them.

# 'Why I won't be joining Brighton -or anyone else'

#### RAINER BONHOF

Tes a couple of months since the story of Brighton's ambitious bid to sign Rainer Bonhof hit the sports pages of both English and German newspapers. According to Press reports, the deal fell through when the 27-year-old West German World Cup star demanded wages of £1:00,000 a year. Some reporters even claimed that Bonhof's demands worked out at over £2,000 a match.

Brighton chairman Mike Bamber was quoteel as saying: "I can't see any world-class player coming here if this is the sort of money they get on the continent.'

And Seagulls' manager Alan Mullery chipped in: "For that money I'd be willing to make a come-back myself!"

But one man who wasn't quoted was Rainer Bonhof himself. Our Spanish correspondent, a Brighton fun, was intrigued by the story and asked the Valencia midfielder exactly what had happene d.
"I wish I knew!" replied the German star. "I had a call from an

Englishman -- I can't remember his exact name. Mitten, perhaps. Some-thing like that. He asked me if I'd like to play for Brighton, and I said no."

Rainer's version hardly ties in with

the Press reports . . .
"Yes, I know. The German Press
got hold of the story and wouldn't leave me alone. I just kept saying nothing, because there was nothing to say! I don't really know what to tell you now, except that my contract with Valencia doesn't expire until June 1981 and I aim to see it out. Valencia are playing much better football this season, and the new manager (Alfredo di Stéfano) is very good.

Yes, I'm happy to stay here."

We I nention the effect his financial deman ds had produced in the English club. There's an awkward silence. "You know I don't like talking about money. Let's just say that there was no way/ I was going to join Brighton."
In frairness to the German star, he is

earning over £100,000 a season with Valencia — even without taking into account win bonuses that can top £500 a match. Logically, there was no reason for him to move from one foreign country to another if he was going to lose out financially in the move. Even so, we mention that the Spainlish club are reported to have agreed a £500,000 fee and don't seem too u pset at the prospect of losing him.

There's another awkward silence. "List en. I'll be honest with you. Even if one of the top English clubs made an odifer for me, and could give me attractive terms, I wouldn't go to Engli ind. As I said, I aim to see out my contract in Valencia.

"Then, in 1981, I'll go back to Gerrinany, play one more year and aim to represent my country in a third world. Carp. At least I'll have the

World Cup. At least I'll have the advantage of being familiar with

Spain -- the climate, the stadiums,

the players.

"After that it'll be practically the end of my career as an active foot-baller, and I must prepare myself for life after the football has finished. I'm certain my future is in Germany, and that's where I want to live when I retire from the game. Anyway, it just wouldn't make sense to disrupt my life-style and move to England."

We remind Rainer that November he stated publicly that he wanted to leave Valencia and that the club was behind with his salary payments.

"Yes, it was a little embarrassing at the time. I had a tax problem in Germany and I needed the cash. I'm not pretending I haven't had any problems at Valencia, but the club directors and I have just had a meeting and we've completely restructured the terms of my contract, so I feel a good deal easier now."

We asked him if he regretted his

move to Spain.

"No. Not at all. I had had eight years in the Bundesliga, and I thought that was enough.

#### Style

"In Spain there's a much stronger emphasis on tactics, and teams change their style completely for away games, whereas in Germany a team has its style of play and sticks to basically the same format in home and away games. The Spanish system demands a complete change of mentality.'

It's been rumoured that Hamburger SV manager, Günter Netzer, has suggested a Keegan-Bonhof exchange

deal for next season .

"I had a long chat with Günter in Madrid a couple of months ago. We talked about everything in general, but he didn't mention anything about a deal like that. As I said, I'll be going back to Germany in 1981. I don't want to sound too patriotic, but you must admit that, looking at our clubs' results, German club football is among the best in the world — and that's where I would like to end my

For Rainer Bonhof, the Brighton story is little more than an amusing anecdote. But it has emphasised that while England is rivalled only by Italy for astronomical transfer fees, few British clubs can compete against the top European outfits when it comes to offering players attractive terms.

#### HELD HOLDING HIS **OWN AT 37**

SIGI Held, who played for West Germany against England in the 1966 World Cup Final at Wembley, is still going strong in the Bundesliga — at 37. In fact, he is the oldest player in the German League and had resigned himself to finishing his career with Preussen in the Second Division (North) when Bundesliga club Bayer Uerdingen bid around £60,000 for

Sigi made his 'comeback' against Hamburger SV in the 2-2 draw and Preussen's chairman said afterwards: "Sigi can play for two more

Held says: "I still feel fit and I've never had a bad injury. I'm enjoying my

football tremendously. ••••••••••••••••••••••••

Semi-professionalism was introduc ed several years ago in Sweden with Mal mö FF and Oster IFK the leaders. But 1979 runners-up, IFK Gothenburg, have beecome the first Swedish club to sign a full-time professional. He is centre-fonward Torbjorn Nilsson, and he has signed a two-year contract as a full-timer worth more than £45,000 a year.

Former Spartak Moscow cen-tre-forward and manager Nikita Simonian was in charge of the USSR team for two years but dis-missed after they were virtually eliminated from the European Championship, He has now been sent to the modern equivalent of sent to the modern equivalent of a football Siberia as managercoach of Jamaica!

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acceptable.



# **Last chance for**

BRIAN Clough never ceases to amaze, so perhaps we should have expected him to sign Stanley

Clough seems to specialise in reforming wayward characters, but can he really make Bowles into

but can he really make Bowles into a good boy?

Well successive England managers told us that despite his gambling, on-off marriage and various tangles with authority Stanley is a nice lad at heart.

At £200,000 Bowles doesn't represent as big a gamble as did Trevor Francis at a million or Frankie Gray at half-a-million.

At best he'll turn out to be a capital investment. At worst he'll leave Cloughie reflecting "Another fine mess you got me into, Stanley" and move along soccer's road to obscurity. road to obscurity

For Bowles himself the move to Forest is a last chance to prove

that he has what it takes to be the

hub of a great side.
At successive clubs Bowles has threatened to fulfil his enormous potential, but he's flitted through periods of fame and foolishness with the net product that his reputation has been constantly tarnished.

This season he has been working as hard as he's ever done, and Queens Park Rangers benefited enormously. But the Second Division was not the

rightful setting for such a talent. Since Archie Gemmill was

Since Archie Germill was prematurely allowed to move on to Birmingham City, Forest have been palpably weaker in midfield. John McGovern is a good player, without possessing the flair of a Germill or a Bowles. Ian Bowyer and John O'Hare are earnest artisans who have already. and John O hare are earnest artisans who have already exceeded expectations at Forest, and when Trevor Francis drops back it is an utter waste of his striking usefulness.

striking usefulness.
So when Forest lost for the fifth successive away League game at Crystal Palace, Clough knew action was required — and quickly.
Within 24 hours Tommy Docherty had been contacted and he sanctioned the sale of Bowles, perhaps recognising that it would

perhaps recognising that it would be wrong to pull on the reins and hold him back

Forest's decline in recent weeks has been generally attributed to Gemmill's move and Tony Woodcock's ambitious excursion into German football.

It was after that Palace defeat that Brian Clough made his astonishing claim that perhaps his own management acumen had waned, and Peter Taylor sharply retorted that Brian should speak for himself and not include him in that observation.

that observation.

Although the two matters were not directly related it helped gloss over this particular confrontation when Bowles was signed next day. It is certainly the most intriguing transfer so far this season.

Fortunes can change quickly in this game. Could it be possible that the same Stan Bowles who becan the season ranting and

that the same Stan Bowles who began the season ranting and raging at Rangers, asking for transfers and generally leading an unpleasant sort of existence, could end it with a European Cup-winners' medal?

The idea is not so far fetched, and if Forest can fill the void left by first of all Gemmill, then Asa Hartford, Brian Clough will have pulled off one of his best pieces of business in the transfer market.

of business in the transfer market

T THE moment Scotland are suf-A fering from the same problem that affected England so badly a few

seasons ago . . . a serious shortage of top class players.
Our results since qualifying for the 1978 World Cup Finals, and recent display against Belgium at Hampden Park, make it painfully clear just how far behind the rest of the leading socrar pations, we are at the leading soccer nations we are at present.

England were in the sarrie situation in the middle of the '70's and are only just emerging from one of the most depressing eras of their international history.

Only now are some of the players Sir Alf Ramsey and then D on Revie brought in as youngsters looking real international class.

It takes a long time for a player to really establish himself at international level . . . at least two years. Ask Kevin Keegan, Trevor Brooking, Mick Mills, Phil Neal, Phil Thompson and Dave Watson.

Their early days in the white shirt were hardly worth rememb ering.

Very few players marke an immediate impact, producing their club form at international level.

There are exceptions, of course, such as Tottenham's Glenn Hoddle who had a tremendous baptism for England against Bulgaria.

Scotland manager Jock Stein is more aware than anyone of the enormous task ahead. Before the match against Belgium he called the squad together and told us he was at the beginning of his build up for the 1982 World Cup Finals.

Mr Stein said there would be setbacks, defeats, disappointments and possible recriminations, but he was determined to establish a settled squad, a team not only capable of reaching Spain in two years time, but of being serious contenders for the World Cup trophy itself.

A joke? Jock Stein was never

more serious in his life as a soccer manager.

Scotland will now use our remaining European Championship match against Portugal, the next British Championship and our forthcoming South American summer tour to Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina to experiment with new faces.

Just now it is practically impossible for Jock Stein to pencil in a probable World Cup 40. We just haven't the necessary strength in

depth.

All he can do at present is to juggle established names around and wait for the likes of Eamonn Bannon (Dundee United), Roy Aitken (Celtic), John Wark (Ipswich), Ray Stewart (West Ham), Murdo



(Celtic) MacLeod Archibald (Aberdeen) to mature.

It wouldn't surprise me if Jock Stein has a mass clear out for the Portugal match on February 6.

Against Belgium he made six changes from the side beaten in Brussels on November 21st.

I could well be one of the first casualties this time. I realise I'm under tremendous pressure from the Crystal Palace defender Jim Cannon.

To be honest I've never had the feeling of international security, even though I've only been dropped from one squad in five years. I don't know why players such as Asa Hartford, Martin Buchan and Graeme Souness have been ignored

recently. Perhaps injuries have prevented their call-up, or maybe Mr Stein feels Hartford and Buchan will be too old to be involved in Spain.

Not for me to tell Mr Stein his job, but if it was me I'd play them and blend in the youngsters gradually. The new midfield trio of Bannon,

Aitken and Wark just did not work against Belgium. A player of the stature of Souness playing alongside Bannon might just have been



Gordon McQueen (right) chases Villa's Gary Shaw in a game United won 3-0.

# 'At the moment we're

# MY SOCCER WORLD Gordon Occueen



more effective . . . plugged a few of the gaps.

I felt sorry for Bannon. He looked out of his depth, fine player though he is. Missing an early chance to put Scotland ahead couldn't have done much to boost his confidence. But he will come again.

The Belgians, so superior to Scotland in every department, have only recently come through a bad spell themselves.

It certainly wasn't a night to remember for the Scots, or the 25,000 or so who turned up for this "dead" Group Two tie.

The fans had been well warned by Jock Stein in the Press not to expect too much from the side and to be fair they were very understanding

and gave us every encouragement.
Scotland paid dearly for lapses in
the first-half and gave the ball away
repeatedly in midfield.
Naturally, the talented Belgians
took full advantage and scored

three great goals in a devastating 13 minute spell.

Our one moment to cheer came in the 56th minute when John Robertson curled a free-kick past their 'keeper Custers after Kenny Dalglish had been fouled for the umpteenth time.

After the game Belgium manager Guy Thijs said he was surprised how easy it had been for his team. He thought Scotland would have pre-sented a far tougher challenge.

Austria were also shocked and disappointed by our defeat. Watching the game live on TV, they saw Belgium pip them to qualify for the European Championship Finals

Now some critics want Jock Stein to ban Anglos in an attempt to get more patriotism into the squad.

I must admit I would like to see an all Scottish team tested one day, but at the moment such a side would stand no chance against West Germany, Italy . . . or, I'm sad to say,

To think players in the Scottish League are more patriotic than those South of the border is nonsense.

If anything, playing down South gives Scots even more heart for their home country.

Living with English players and managers, enduring their libes and jokes when Scotland lose is agony. We hate it.

At present we are labelled "Scotland the Grave" and it hurts. So did the comment I read the other day. "It's useless for Scotland trying to qualify for the next World Cup. The only way their players will get to Spain is on their holidays."

Jock Stein has a lot of hard work

to do in a desperately short space of time, but I'm certain he's the right man for the job.

Just give him and the new names he introduces to the squad time to develop and make the international grade. Scotland will be Brave again

... mark my words.
This Saturday (January 19th) Manchester United take on an Aston Villa side that has enjoyed an incredible revival recently

When United beat them 3-0 at Villa Park earlier in the season, the fans were screaming for the head of manager Ron Saunders.

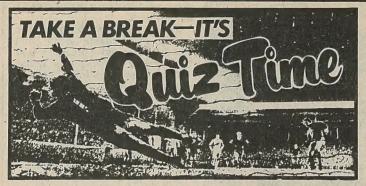
Ironically, since that defeat, Villa have had an amazing run which has taken them up the First Division to a

place among the leaders.

It's nice to see this great club doing well. I've always had a soft spot for them.

But despite their recent form I must take United to win at Old Trafford to maintain our title chal-

See you next time . . .



- 1. True or false? Kevin Keegan (right) is the first British player to win the European Footballer of the Year award two years running.
- 2. Bristol Rovers striker Steve White was transferred to which Second Division club for £150,000 recently?
- 3. Which Derby County player scored from a penalty against Liverpool on December 22nd and then had the unfortunate experience of putting through his own goal for the equaliser?
- 4. Brighton striker Teddy Maybank returned to which of his former clubs for £150,000?
- 5. Throughout the 1970's, Liverpool had the incredible record of only losing 11, 12 or 13 times in all competitive games at Anfield?
- 6. Joe McBride, Imre Varadi or Martin Murray scored Everton's goal in their 1-1 draw at Bolton on his full League debut?
- 7. The Third Division record attendance was smashed when Sheffield Wednesday beat neighbours Sheffield United 4-0 at Hillsborough. Was the crowd 29,309, 39,309 or 49,309?
- 8. Manchester City recently bid £400,000 for Don Penn. Does he play for Wigan, Walsall or Wrexham?
- 9. Which bottom of the Division club upset the odds on Boxing Day by beating the leaders?
- 10. Martin Patching (below) was transferred from Wolves to which Second Division club in December for £100,000?





- 11. Cambridge United or Oldham Athletic led three times during their clash that finished 3-3 recently?
- 12. On Boxing Day, Fourth Division Halifax Town had their biggest gate for ten years. 10,061 saw them win 2-1 against high-riding Portsmouth, Huddersfield or Bradford City?
- 13. On the same day, which former England defender was sent-off in a Third Division game?



- 14. Peter Ward (above) scored his first hat-trick for two years in Brighton's 3-1, 4-2 or 5-3 win against Wolves last month?
- 15. A total of 620,747, 720,747 or 820,747 saw the games played in the Football League on Boxing Day?

#### ANSWERS:

1. True. 2. Luton Town 3. Roger Davies 4. Fulham 5. 13. 6. McBride. Davies 4. Fulham 5. 13. 6. McBride Newcastle. 10. Watford. 11. Oldham. 12. Huddersfield. 13. Barnsley's Norman Hunter. 14. 3-1. To 620,747.

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# GERRY FRANC

WHEN former England skipper Gerry Francis finally made his move from Q.P.R. to Palace - not Manchester United, as so many had for so long forecast — for £465,000 last July, it represented something like the awakening from a nightmare.

It was the end of a comeback bid one which had lasted the best part of three long years! It was a new start. Gerry knew

full well about the pain and the despair and the near-hopelessness of an injured athlete.

He deserved his break, and all football - especially his former team-mates who'd observed, at first-hand, the loneliness of the long-distance "crock" wished him well.

At the end of the 1975-76 season, Gerry had the football world

He'd just led Queens Park Rangers to within a point of being

League Champions.

He was captain of country as well as club — and, in early June, helped set England off on a promising 4-1 start in Finland towards the hoped-for World Cup glory in Argentina two years later.

Then, without warning, the rug of success was cruelly pulled from under his feet.

Consider this score. Up to the end of that 1975-76 season, Francis



completely coincidental.

But the loss to Francis himself has been incalculable.

A footballer's life is a short one and, of necessity, a precarious one.

Virtually two years out of it in mid-stream — the more so, when you've just hit the tops — can be disastrous.

Gerry was established as captain of England; with a continuous run of games, and reasonable success. there's no reason why he still

Now - or, rather, sometime in

the future - he's got to fight his way back even into a place in the squad.

Having proved his skill and ability, he'll now have to start all over again proving his fitness - and, above all, staying-power.

Back in December, 1977 — on his 26th birthday — Q.P.R. granted his request for a transfer.

Dave Sexton, a firm believer in Gerry's midfield skills from his days as Rangers' boss, looked all set to sign him for Manchester United in what would then have been a new record fee.

There was a lot of talk, and more

talk — and then nothing more.

No one doubts that it was the nagging suspicions about his fitness, and not his ability, which caused United to pull back from the brink of paying what would have been a sizeable sum even by the standards of Old Trafford resources.

Even so, it looked to be defi-nitely ON. After Rangers' game with Norwich on 14 January, then manager Frank Sibley announced to reporters waiting for news: "I agreed a fee," — said to be £445,000 — "with United at 11.45 p.m. yesterday, and Gerry will be joining them next week.

But - after a weekend of assorted confusion, rumour, and counter-rumour — the "definite" transfer quietly fizzled-out in embarrassment all round.

BILEON

Born Hammersmith, London, on 6th December, 1951 — the son of former inside-forward Brentford

Joined Q.P.R. as an apprentice in 1968; made his League debut, as a 16-year-old, against Liverpool in 1969; and took over captaincy in 1974. Transferred to Crystal Palace, for £465,000, in July, 1979.

Made first of his six England

Under-23 appearances, against Denmark, in November, 1973. Gained first of his 12 full caps

against Czechoslovakia, in October, 1974; captain in his last eight games. Highspot — two goals in 5-1 defeat of Scotland in May, 1975. Appearances (up to and inc. Jan.

1st): 313 League games (55 goals); 18 F.A. Cup-ties (one goal); 23 League Cup-ties (six goals); one U.E.F.A. Cup-tie (two goals).

Sexton, say some, was saved from the managerial boob of a lifetime — an opinion which, right or wrong, was hardly calculated to boost poor old Gerry's confidence in his future.

Bravely, Francis asserted: "I'm sure I'll come back just as fit, and effective, as before.

"Because I've an enormous respect for Dave, in a strange way I'm glad the deal didn't go through when it was expected to. As things have turned out since, think of the enormous pressures which would

enormous pressures which would have built up on both of us.
"But, in the long-term, I'm still thinking the loss will be his, and United's — not mine. I'm confident I can make it back as good as

But what of Francis himself in the meantime? Through no fault of his own making, he became some-

thing of an "outsider". In 1976, he was captain of England. By 1978, he'd become a sidelined captain of nothing — not even his own club.

#### Brilliant

Now, in 1979-80, he's making a new start with Palace — and playing brilliantly in master-minding Terry Venables bright-and-

breezy young team.
But, for the moment, let's just look back a bit.

Unlucky Gerry spent the 1978 Easter weekend recuperating from an operation for the removal of a floating piece of bone from his right knee.

Previously in the season he was sidelined with calf and back iniuries.

Earlier in Gerry's three-year horror-story had been the serious back trouble — which, at one stage, even looked as if it might end his career there and then and assorted hamstring, muscular, and groin problems.

Earlier still, though, his general fitness-record had been good enough by anybody's standards. In 1970-71, his first full season, Francis played 38 League games;

and 38 the season after.

He was ever-present on 42 in 1972-73; followed by 40, 35, and 36 missing only 23 out of a possible 252 League games over six consecutive seasons.

Then came the almost continual trouble (of one sort or another) of missing-out in 60 of 84 games over the following two seasons.

Now it's into a new start hopefully, with all-systems-go for Gerry once again.

Give him the last word, and he says: "With many problems behind me, I'll be right there on the way back — AND looking for my old England place!"

With luck on his side - and after so much virtual inactivity, and as he puts it, "the continual frustrane puts it, the continual frustra-tion of not knowing", he deserves a better break — hopefully this season could really mark the beginning of a new deal for Gerry Francis.

